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THURSDAY, APRIL 28TH 2016

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SEE PAGE 24

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SPECIAL DINING AND SUNDAY LUNCHES!
SEE PAGE 26

MAN JAILED FOR DRUNKEN ATTACK ON GIRLFRIEND

A NORTH Cornelly man who carried out a drunken attack on his girlfriend has been jailed for a year at Cardiff Crown Court, writes AJ SICLUNA.

At one point during the assault, Joshua Trevaskis (25) shouted: "I'm going to kill you," said prosecutor Ian Kolvin.

Minutes later, he told his 20-year-old girlfriend: "I won't do it again."

Trevaskis, of Heol Llan, admitted one charge of wounding.

Judge Tom Crowther QC told him his victim must have been terrified and he added: "The time has come for you to start treating properly people you claim to love."

Mr Kolvin said the couple had been involved in a relationship, but there had been problems.

In the early hours of January 23 while in bed, Trevaskis, who was drunk, became argumentative.

He prevented her from leaving, and grabbed her by the throat, saying he was going to kill her. He punched her to the face, causing her to become unconscious.

When she came to, said Mr Kolvin, Trevaskis apologised and said: "I won't do it again".

He continued to prevent her leaving, but she managed to get away and went to the home of her father.

She suffered swellings and bruising, a chipped tooth and a suspected fracture of her jaw and nose. Injuries to her lips were stitched.

She later said the attack had made her have problems sleeping and when she did, she had nightmares.

In an impact statement, she said: "I feel jumpy all the time and have been left vulnerable. I never want to see him again."

When Trevaskis was arrested and questioned, he told the police: "No comment."

He was said to have 13 previous convictions for offences including causing another partner actual bodily harm, affray in Wyndham Street, Bridgend, and threatening behaviour.

His solicitor, Adam Sharp, said: "The injuries were not the most aggravating feature, but there is no excuse for this type of behaviour and he must accept that."

He said the incident was not planned, and he had been genuinely appalled at what he had done to a young woman he said he loved.

Mr Sharp said there had been issues with regard to his mental health which had been exacerbated by heavy drinking.

Last year, said Mr Sharp, he tried to hang himself and he has also self-harmed.

The Judge made a restraining order preventing Trevaskis indefinitely contacting the victim.

SWEET DONATION TO CHARITY!

Left to right: (standing) PC Ceri Francis, Clare Francis (Y Bont), PC Rea David, Inspector Paul Tinkler. Kneeling down: Emily Phillips, Edyta Roberts, Kelly Coleman with children at Y Bont.

A POLICE tuck shop has managed to raise an astonishing £2,000, which has been donated to local Bridgend children's Charity Y Bont.

Staff at the Queens Road building on the Bridgend Industrial Estate raised the cash selling sweet and savoury snacks to hungry colleagues.

The staggering amount was collected in just 12 months by the team which ran the small retail enterprise from their office.

Police Constable Rea David, said: "We are delighted to be able to hand such a significant amount of money over to this great cause – I guess it's lucky our colleagues have such a sweet tooth.

"Of course it is down to some hard work and I'd like to thank Sergeant Paul Thomas – he gifted £100 from the divisional charity fund to start us off.

"I'd also like to thank my colleagues Ceri Francis and Madeline Clements who helped run the tuck shop and keep it stocked with goodies, and give a big thanks to all my colleagues who supported it day in day out. I am sure Y Bont – which does such an amazing job for children with disabilities and their families – will put the money to excellent use."

Y Bont is an independent, not for profit organisation which provides education and support to over 130 families across Bridgend who have children with disabilities.

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Who wants to build what and where?

Mr Anthony Smith – **Land adjacent to the Old Police Station, Bethania Row, Ogmore Vale** – Detached dwelling.
Mr B Robinson – **Plot rear of Y-Nythfa, the Common, Bryncoch, Brycethin** – Outline planning for one single storey building.
Mr Carl Simmonds – **Woodland House, Woodland Close, Bettws** – Change of opening hours from 7am.
Mr S Barker – **1 Garn Road, Maesteg** – Change disused barber shop back into residential.
Mr Neil Reynolds – **2 Station Hill, Bridgend** – Second floor extension to form new two bedroom apartment.
Zurich Assurance Ltd – **Unit 7, Retail Quarter Banks Buildings, Bridgend Industrial Estate** – Change of use from vacancy class A2 back to class A3 (food and drink).
Mr A Clough – **24 Green Meadow, Cefn Cribwr** – Two-storey side extension with single storey rear extension and extend front porch.
GB Engineering Wales Ltd – **Land off Tythegston Close, Nottage** – Approval of details for conditions 2, 3, 6, 7 and 8 of P/14/518/FUL.
Mrs S Grey – **Field off Cefn Carfan Lane, Bryncethin** – Approval of details for conditions 2, 3 and 4 of P/15/409/FUL.
Mr and Mrs R Ivey – **Plot adjacent to 16 Greenwood Close, Litchard** – Single storey dwelling.
Porthcawl Counselling Service – **Ty Elis, 14 Victoria Avenue, Porthcawl** – Single storey and two storey extension to the rear and dormer extension on rear roof of main building.
Mr Stephen Thomas – **274 New Road, Porthcawl** – Second floor extension.
Taylor Wimpey South Wales – **Land at Brackla Industrial Estate, Bridgend** – Relaxation of condition 2 (limit of units) and 15 (single aspect apartments) of P/13/246/OUT.
Hannah Cirotto – **Louchi's Tea Room, 114 Commercial Street, Maesteg** – Relax condition 1 of P/14/643/FUL to extend opening hours to Monday to Saturday, 9am-10.30am and Sunday, 9am-6pm.
Nicola Gilbert – **23 Glynstell Road, Nottage** – Extend front and rear dormers.
Natural Resources Wales – **Former Maesteg Washery and Coegnant Colliery Site east of Maesteg** – Creation of community wood, land on reclaimed colliery and washer and tip site, including tree planting, create infrastructure.
Graham Paul Ltd – **Court House, Court Road, Bridgend** – Branded signage to show location of two hanging signs and one perspex wall mounted sign, one floor mounted post and panel.
Mr Nigel Woods – **11 Oaklands Drive, Bridgend** – Proposed motorcycle and bike store to side of property.
Sian Thomas and Kim Paley – **The Dell, Merthyr Mawr Road, Bridgend** – Demolish existing dwelling and replace with detached dwelling, garage and revised internal access.
Dr Jonathon Hicks – **Hut 9, Island Farm, Bridgend** – Approval of details for conditions 2 and 3 of P/16/46/FUL.
Mr Phillip Herbert – **1 Sandy Lane, Porthcawl** – Single storey extension to rear and gable elevations.
GT Developments – **45 Heol Castell, Coety, Litchard** – Two storey side extension.
Filco Foods Ltd – **Filco supermarket car park, Hermon Road, Caerau** – New build two semi-detached, two-bed houses including alterations to Filco car park size.
Mr and Mrs M Cadogan – **Garden of 1 Heol Gadlys, Litchard** – Erection of one dwelling.
Mrs L Storer – **Plot 5, Stable Lane off New Street, Pantygog, Pontycymmer** – Three bedroom, two storey dwelling (resubmission of P/14/597/FUL).

Allie Cingi, Manager of Pencoed Library.

Libraries prepare for Summer Reading Challenge

A SIX foot six stack of brand new Roald Dahl books, the height of their big friendly author, has been delivered to libraries across the county of Bridgend in preparation for this year's Summer Reading Challenge.

Hundreds of Roald Dahl's best-selling paperbacks, hardcover and picture books, in both English and Welsh formats, are expected to be borrowed by the 3,000 local children taking part in the challenge to read six or more library books over the school summer holiday.

Libraries across the Bridgend county will also be hosting a range of themed storytelling, craft and special events throughout July and August, as part of this year's national celebrations to mark 100 years since the birth of Roald Dahl.

The Porthcawl Townswomen's Guild pays its tribute to Sheila

YET again at our meeting, members stood in memory of a member who had died – Sheila Vaughan, a very brave and strong lady who will be much missed.

We have had a very sad start to the year, but also we are getting new members, so must stay positive.

All our groups have been in action – the crafts, games, literary and luncheon groups. We also went to the Pavilion lunchtime drama, which is proving popular. Guild members can always find some activity to enjoy.

We welcomed Mr Alan Badmington on a return visit as speaker to our meeting.

It was a thought provoking and very amusing take on 'How Old Did You Say You Are?'

He will definitely be invited back!

Our meeting next month is on May 11 at 2pm at All Saints Church Hall, when Mr Romeo Bassini will be continuing his talk of last year on 'The Italian Connection'.

We enjoyed it last year, so do come and hear more; all welcome.

DOROTHY THOMAS

Bridgend teenager signs up to digital apprenticeship

Digital Apprentice Joseph Williams at Daydream Education

JOSEPH WILLIAMS, aged 18, from Bridgend, is one of the first people to sign up to ACT's new Digital Marketing Apprenticeship.

Digital marketing apprentice Joseph works at Daydream Education and is responsible for the business's social media accounts and has an important role in developing and delivering online marketing campaigns.

Commenting on his new position, Joseph said: "I am so grateful to ACT Training and Daydream Education for this amazing opportunity. It has been a fantastic foot in the door for me and has been a great way to combine my personal and professional interest in social media."

News from Rotary Club of Bridgend

Interact Club

THE Interact Club of Pencoed Comprehensive School, who are the junior section of the Rotary Club of Bridgend, presented a cheque for £250 to Action for Children – Bridgend Young Carers on April 19.

They also sent a cheque for £250 to Cancer Research Wales at Velindre.

Interact is a group of 14-18 years old, who raise funds for charity and will be making further awards in the near future.

Well caught!

BRIDGEND and District Fishing for the Disabled, who once a month organise fishing from March to October, entertained Cwm Calon Maesteg, Pyle and Porthcawl Life Centre, Valley Gateway Sarn, Bridgend Resource Centre and Headstart on April 20.

Fish ranging from 1lb to 3lb were caught, with the 3lb fish being caught by Rhodri Jenkins, of Cwm Calon, Maesteg.

Anglers were closely watched by a swan, making sure they did not get too close to its nest – and were sent packing if they did!

We wish to thank the Rotary Club of Bridgend, Bridgend Lions, Ogmore Angling Association, Bridgend Fly Tying Association and Sunshine Lodge RAOB of Pencoed for their continuing support.

EDGAR BURT

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READERS' LETTERS

'MPS MUST LISTEN TO THE HOUSE OF LORDS'

EARLIER this year I wrote about the outrageous attack on democracy contained in the Trade Union Bill, calling on the Government to drop their unfair proposals.

Now the House of Lords has debated the Bill, and the Government were defeated three times on key parts of the Bill.

Peers have sent a clear message that the Government has got it wrong and should think again.

Even with the Lords' improvements, the Trade Union Bill remains both an attack on democracy, loading the dice in the Tories' favour, and is an attack on working people's voice at work, changing the balance of power in the workplace.

Now the Bill heads back to the Commons, it is over to our Members of Parliament once again. I urge them to listen to the House of Lords, and vote to keep their amendments in place. And I can only hope the Government takes the opportunity, before it is too late, to drop the whole sorry mess.

Robert Morgan,
Barry Island.

'Wales has only economy that is on the up'

I MUST be honoured. I have just had a letter from the PM himself about the coming election in Wales.

The opposing parties all talk about change in Wales: what change? Wales is doing alright. Plenty of investment is coming into Wales.

Wales has the only economy that's going up. The only change needed is in England.

Just check cities like Cardiff; Liverpool, Glasgow – all Labour-controlled and all booming.

Then take London. A two-bedroom ex-council flat in Cardiff under £100,000; in London, over £1 million.

Doesn't that tell you something? When I worked some years ago, I travelled all around the country, and London was the cheapest.

Just look at it since Boris 'The Bike' took over. It must be the most expensive capital in the world.

So keep Wales Labour, or you will be sorry. Free prescriptions will go, among other things.

Bill Lang,
Barry.

HIGH TIDE TIMES

(UNTIL MAY 5)

The high tides listed in this week's GEM are those in Porthcawl. It should be remembered that along the coast, high tide times will vary. For instance, in Barry, the high point will be 20 – 25 minutes later.

DATE	Time AM	Ht M	Time PM	Ht M
28 Thur	10.47	8.6	23.09	8.5
29 Fri	11.29	8.2		
30 Sat	00.06	7.8	12.39	7.9
01 Sun	01.18	7.8	13.59	7.9
02 Mon	02.41	8.0	15.21	8.2
03 Tues	03.53	8.5	16.29	8.6
04 Wed	04.57	9.2	17.27	9.3
05 Thur	05.55	9.8	18.16	9.9

While The GEM makes every effort to check the accuracy of tide tables, we recommend that anyone putting out to sea, or walking in an area where they could be cut off, should check with a tide table specific to their location.

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PICTURED (from left to right): Alen Richards of Bettws; Chris Lewis, hotel manager; Jill Nicholson (regional director of Cartrefi Cymru); Marilyn Smith and Wendy Richards (Porthcawl Christmas Swim Committee) and the Deputy Mayor of Porthcawl, Coun Robert Lee.

Guests at Glamorgan Hotel benefit from last year's Porthcawl Christmas swim

THE Glamorgan Holiday Hotel has added a new reclining chair to its sun lounge, thanks to the Porthcawl Christmas Swim Committee.

This much-loved charity-owned hotel on Porthcawl seafront provides short-term holiday breaks for older people, and for people with disabilities and was one of the recent beneficiaries of the latest Christmas swim.

Chris Lewis, the hotel manager, said: "Our relationship with the Porthcawl Swim goes back many years with swimmers calling into the hotel on Christmas morning. We are very pleased to benefit this year.

"We consulted with our elderly guests and a new recliner chair was a clear winner. I also want to thank Bridgend Mobility Centre for giving us a good deal!

"Since arriving last week, the new recliner chair has proved a hit with guests enjoying the recent warm spell in the sun lounge."

Marilyn Smith, on behalf of the Porthcawl Christmas Swim, said: "We're delighted the money is being put to such good use for the benefits of older people taking a respite holiday in Porthcawl."

Wendy Richards, also of the Swim Committee, added: "It looks great and I really like the features. I'm sure it will be popular."

During the unveiling, members of the Christmas Swim Committee and the Deputy Mayor of Porthcawl, Coun Robert Lee, took time to chat to hotel guests and Jill Nicholson, the regional director of the Cartrefi Cymru (the charity that owns the hotel) arranged a tour of the hotel.

Marie Curie event

THE Bridgend and Porthcawl group which fundraises for Marie Curie is holding a nostalgic lunch at The Haywain, Brackla, on Thursday, May 12.

The theme will be 'down memory lane' and there will be entertainment from different decades.

Doors open at 12 noon, and the cost is £15. Contact Helen on 01656 660391 for more information or to buy tickets.

Leading writers set to read in Bridgend town

THE first of a new series of 'Penned on the Bont' literary evenings takes place this evening (April 28).

The featured writers are Paul Henry and Julie Griffiths, and there will be an 'open mic' section of the evening for local writers to try reading their work in public.

Paul Henry is the author of nine books of verse. Originally a songwriter, he has read and performed his work at literary festivals in Europe, Asia and the USA.

A popular creative writing tutor, he is a Writing Fellow at the University of South Wales. Also a broadcaster, Paul has written and presented arts programmes for BBC Radio Wales, Radio 3 and Radio 4.

Boy Running, Paul Henry's sixth collection, was published by Seren in spring, 2015.

Julie Griffiths was born in Sheffield, studied law at Kings College, London, and has been teaching English for over 15 years.

Julie has four children and lives in Brackla with her husband, son, three dogs, cat and bearded dragon called Roderick.

The venue is Carnegie House Arts Centre, Wyndham Street, Bridgend, CF31 1EF, at 7.30 pm (sign up for the open mic by 7.15pm).

For more information, go to www.carnegiehouse.co.uk. Admission is £4.

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'Hard-working' man is jailed for bringing mobile phones and SIM cards into Parc Prison

A CIVILIAN worker at Parc Prison, Bridgend, has been jailed for one year at Cardiff Crown Court for being in possession of a number of mobile phones and SIM cards, writes AJ SICLUNA.

Kabinet Douno (40), a man with no previous convictions, of Old School House, Llanharan, was found guilty of taking prohibited items into the prison.

Prosecutor Meirion Davies said that Douno had worked in the food servery in the visitors' hall.

On May 24 of last year, a senior security manager arranged to have the staff searched.

Douno was found to have two mobile phones on him.

He admitted he owned them, and said one was to call his mother in South Africa.

Later, four sim cards were also found, as well as a third mobile phone.

Mr Davies pointed out that Douno was prohibited from taking such equipment into the prison.

Douno denied the charge. He said he had made an "honest mistake".

His counsel, Lucy Crowther, said: "Mitigation can only go to the length of sentence. He has a young family to provide for and obviously, has lost his job."

She said he was ashamed to find himself in such a position and he was not the sort of person one would expect to find before a court.

Passing sentence, Judge Philip Richards said: "Prisons depend upon their staff to be honest."

He added: "It is necessary for me to deprive you of your liberty. You have been a hard-working person and I take that into account. But it has to be made clear there are serious consequences for behaviour of this sort."

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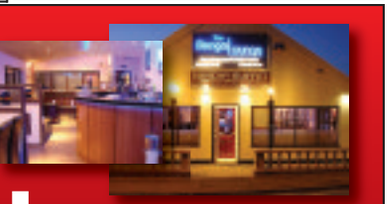

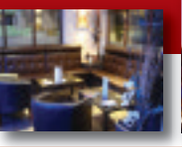

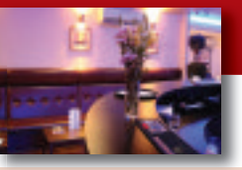

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Rescued angler urges public to answer RNLI's Mayday in Wales

MIKE DOOLEY, who was dramatically rescued by RNLI volunteers at Porthcawl, is calling on the people of Wales to support the charity's national fundraising event. Mayday will take place from April 26 to May 2.

PHOTOGRAPHS BY MALCOLM NUGENT

Mike (41), a musician and peripatetic music teacher from Caerphilly, owes his life to the volunteer crew after a large wave swept him into the sea whilst fishing off the breakwater in December.

Other fishermen raised the alarm and tried to assist him as he dangerously drifted further out to sea and became hypothermic.

Now Mike is urging the public to support the charity's fundraising efforts.

On the day of the incident shortly before Christmas, the sea conditions were rough, but as other fishermen were close by on the harbour wall in Porthcawl Mike thought he would be safe.

He had been fishing for about 20 minutes when the huge wave hit.

He said: "I saw it coming over and before I had time to react I was knocked flat on the ground. My hands were out and I was being dragged across the concrete of the pier and then suddenly I felt nothing beneath me and I just dropped over the edge."

In the cold water, he tried to swim back towards the pier but the current was sweeping him out to sea. He was getting battered by big waves and was swallowing water.

"I was only in the water for a few minutes but already the pier looked small and a long way away. It was terrifying and I was starting to wonder if I could survive this. I was trying not to take on any water but I could feel it in my lungs.

"I was hypothermic and getting desperate, so I started to scream for help and just after that I felt hands grabbing my coat and I thought 'oh thank God the lifeboat is here'."

Porthcawl's Atlantic 85 lifeboat was launched and the volunteer crew located Mike a quarter of a mile out to sea face up in the water. It was only 10 minutes from the moment the alarm was raised to the lifeboat reaching Mike. RNLI volunteer Simon Emms jumped into the water and pulled him aboard the lifeboat.

Simon said: "When we reached Mike, he was in pretty precarious situation, the sea was terribly cold and he was unable to stay afloat for much longer. His hands were badly grazed from where he had been desperately trying to cling to the pier.

"It could have been a very different Christmas for Mike's family had the alarm not been raised in time. We're just thankful we reached him when we did and are delighted to be meeting him again. It makes what we do worthwhile."

Thankfully, Mike made a full recovery after being taken to hospital and was well enough to play a gig with his string quartet only days later.

He added: "When I heard about the RNLI's Mayday campaign, I wanted to do what I could to help and raise awareness of the amazing job these volunteers do. I will be eternally thankful to them. They are heroes who put themselves in dangerous situations to help others.

"I owe my life to them and I can't say anything more than that. As a charity, the RNLI needs every penny so, please give what you can this Mayday as you never know when you may need their help."

Mike was delighted to come face-to-face with Simon, Ross Purchase (Porthcawl RNLI helm) and the other volunteer crew members, Chris Missen and Matthew Picton.

Visit RNLI.org/Mayday to donate and to see the other ways you can support the campaign.

(Left to right): Simon Emms, Mathew Picton, Mike Dooley and Ross Purchase .

GARTH 'SUPER TROOPERS' WIN ENTERPRISE AWARD

PICTURED (from left to right): Isobel Tarr, Carys Evans, Phoebe Simmons and Demi-Leigh Price with their merchandise.

GARTH Primary School has won the 'Team Spirit Award' at the national final of the Welsh Government's 'Enterprise Troopers' competition.

Year-6 pupils Carys Evans, Isobel Tarr, Demi-Leigh Price and Phoebe Simmons made up the 'Garth Super Troopers' team who competed at the final held at The Dr Who Centre in Cardiff Bay.

The team did a fantastic job demonstrating to four judges from the business world how they set up their business selling 'Scrabble Art decorations' and 'Reindeer Hot Chocolate' after the school created an enterprise club for key stage two students.

Prior to the competition, the school had held a 'Dragon's Den' inspired session where the Garth Super Troopers pitched their ideas to headteacher Julie Thomas, gaining them an investment of £30 to help them start up.

The headteacher said: "They paid the initial investment back following the Halloween disco in which they sold 'scary hot dogs' and 'poison drinks'. This also gave them funding to buy the necessary resources for their products and business.

"From there they developed a business plan, did lots of market research, worked out all the necessary costings, calculated their predicted profit and created resources to help them market and sell their products."

After creating the products, the team promoted the business to other pupils and their parents through text messages, posters, and order forms sent home. They also used school assemblies and concerts as opportunities to market the business and made a healthy profit of £417 from this initial trading, some of which has funded new tag rugby bibs for the school and a donation to the Urdd Eisteddfod 2017 fund.

On the day of the national final, the team presented to the audience and outlined to the judges the skills they had cultivated in the process of creating and developing their business such as motivation, setting and achieving goals, working co-operatively, generating ideas and solving problems.

The team impressed the judges as well as Minister for Economy, Edwina Hart, with their passion, knowledge and entrepreneurial skills to achieve the 'Team Spirit' award.

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Llangewydd pupils are at one with nature

Jasmine Scott-Reynolds, Jack Davis and Charli Gray – three members of the Llangewydd Juniors eco committee – inside the school's new outdoor classroom.

Llangewydd Junior School's brand new outdoor classroom.

WITH 'grass' on the outside walls, and 'trees' inside, Llangewydd Junior School's brand new outdoor classroom is the perfect place for learning about the environment.

The school has recycled a former award-winning Urdd Eisteddfod exhibition stand into a new outdoor classroom which will be used for storytelling, art classes and science lessons.

Astro turf covers the exterior walls, while the inside of the classroom features more astro turf on the floor, a log circle, and 'trees' made out of fabric, with 350 leaves made out of pupils' and teachers' hand-prints hanging from the branches.

The Mayor of Bridgend County Borough, Coun Richard Young, officially opened the new classroom, and headteacher Sue Davies said: "We are extremely excited about our new outdoor classroom, which is the first of its kind in Wales.

"The old Urdd Eisteddfod exhibition stand was used in 2014 in Llanelli, and we have given it the 'Llangewydd' magic touch. The result is a new facility that the whole school is very proud of, and it complements our allotment, pond, and forest school areas."

The Mayor said: "This new outdoor classroom has so much potential to enrich the learning experiences of pupils, continuing the momentum of their recent 'excellent' Estyn inspection report.

"Members of the school's eco-committee have been integral to the project and it was great to meet them and see first-hand the enthusiasm and passion that they have for the environment and all things green."

Llangewydd Junior School is also one of 18 schools in Bridgend county borough that are able to proudly fly the Platinum Eco Flag, which is awarded by Keep Tidy Wales.

The other schools flying the flag are Abercerdin Primary, Blaengarw Primary, Brackla Primary, Bryncethin Primary, Brynmenyn Primary, Cefn Glas Infants, Coleg Cymunedol Y Ddwewen, Garth Primary, Maes Y Haul Primary, Nottage Primary, Oldcastle Primary, Pen Y Fai C/W Primary, Pencoed Primary, Porthcawl Primary, St Marys RC Primary, Tondu Primary and West Park Primary.

This plaque is inside the new outdoor classroom.

Coun Richard Young – the Mayor of Bridgend County Borough – officially opening the new outdoor classroom at Llangewydd Junior School with pupil Jack Davis.

Go to the **The GEM** for the latest stories and breaking news...
www.barry-today.co.uk
www.cowbridge-today.co.uk
www.llantwit-major-today.co.uk
www.bridgend-today.co.uk
www.porthcawl-today.co.uk

'Cork popping event' for vital counselling service

A CHAMPAGNE tasting for 40 guests was hosted at Moat Farm in Llysworney by Alan and Kathy Kettle to raise funds for Ty Elis – a service for counselling and psychotherapy based in Porthcawl.

The event was Patsy Hartnell's idea, as her daughter Beth – studying for a PhD – works with Ty Elis. She gave a brief and poignant summary of their work during the evening.

It was founded in 1996 by Mrs Edwina White, a retired social worker and Dr Richard Jenkins, a local GP. Ninety per cent of clients are referred by the NHS, either through GPs, psychiatrists or other primary mental health services.

The event had a French theme as you can see on the photo. Canapes and a musical interlude with French songs all added to the fun.

Roger Stead was the 'master of ceremonies' and managed to provide us all with a real challenge to tell the Pol Roger from the Pierre Darcy or the Mumm from the Monopole Heidsieck! He included a couple of non-Champagne bubblies too, to see if our palates were up to spotting them.

The evening raised £674 for Ty Elis – so thanks to all who supported it!

ALAN KETTLE

Follow The GEM on Twitter - find us @gem_news

Local candidate list for Welsh, May 5 election

THE Bridgend and Ogmore candidates for the National Assembly for Wales elections which will be held on Thursday, May 5 are:

For the Bridgend constituency:
Charlie Barlow (Wales Green Party);
George Jabbour (Welsh Conservative Party);
Caroline Jones (UKIP Wales);
Carwyn Jones (Welsh Labour);
Jonathan Pratt (Welsh Liberal Democrats);
James Radcliffe (Plaid Cymru).

For the Ogmore constituency:
Laurie Brophy (Wales Green Party);
Anita Davies (Welsh Liberal Democrats);
Huw Irranca-Davies (Welsh Labour);
Elizabeth Kendall (UKIP Wales);
Tim Thomas (Plaid Cymru);
Jamie Wallis (Welsh Conservative Party).

Full details of all candidates standing on the regional list can be found at www.bridgend.gov.uk, along with information about the election of a Police and Crime Commissioner for the South Wales Police Area, which will also be held on May 5.

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MAE Menter Bro Ogwr yn hybu ac yn hyrwyddo'r defnydd o'r iaith Gymraeg yn sir Pen-y-bont ar Ogwr.

Bwriad y Fenter yw codi proffil yr iaith Gymraeg yn y sir gan gynyddu cyfleoedd trigolion o bob oedran ddefnyddio'r iaith mewn amrywiaeth o feysydd. Dyma beth sy'n digwydd gyda ni mis yma:

Digwyddiadau wythnosol:

Dydd Llun: Bore coffi Porthcawl i ddysgwyr a Chymry Cymraeg, YMCA Porthcawl, 11-12yp.

Clwb Gwyddoniaeth i blant Ysgol Gynradd Gymraeg y Ferch o'r Sgêr, amser cinio, am ddim.

Clwb Ieuenctid (Bl 9-11), YGG Llangynwyd, amser cinio, am ddim.

Clwb Celf a Chrefft i blant Ysgol Gynradd Gymraeg Bro Ogwr, 3:30 – 4:30, £1 y sesiwn.

Clwb ar ôl Ysgol, YGG Llangynwyd, 3:30pm-4:45pm, £1.50 y sesiwn.

Dydd Mawrth: Bore coffi Pen-y-bont i ddysgwyr a Chymry Cymraeg, Caffi Tŷ Coffi Pen-y-bont, 10-11yb.

Clwb Animeiddio i blant Ysgol Gynradd Gymraeg Cwm Garw, amser cinio, am ddim.

Dydd Mercher: Clwb Gwersi DJ, Ysgol Gyfun Gymraeg Llangynwyd, amser cinio.

Clwb Ieuenctid, YMCA Pen-y-bont, 6-8yh, £1 y sesiwn.

Dydd Iau: Clwb Gemau iard i blant Ysgol Gynradd Gymraeg Cynwyd Sant, amser cinio, am ddim.

Siop Siarad, Siop Yr Hen Bont, Pen-y-bont, Cyfle i ddysgwyr holi cwestiynau, ymarfer a gloywi eu Cymraeg, ynghyd â dysgwyr o'r un lefel. Pob Dydd Iau Grŵp 1: 12:45pm – 1:30pm.

Ymarfer patrymau iaith lefelau Mynediad a Sylfaen. Grŵp 2: 1:30pm-2:15pm. Dechrau sgwrsio yn Gymraeg. Grŵp 3: 2:15pm-3pm. I bobl sy'n gallu cynnal sgwrs Gymraeg.

Dydd Gwener: Clwb Ieuenctid, Ysgol Gyfun Gymraeg Llangynwyd, amser cinio.

Am ragor o fanylion cysylltwch â ni! Menter Bro Ogwr 01656 732200; menter@broogwr.org; 07774 032624.

Dilynwch ni ar Facebook a Twitter am y newyddion diweddaraf. Facebook: menterbroogwr, Twitter: @menterbroogwr. Gallwch hefyd danysgrifio i dderbyn ein e-chlysur trwy lenwi'r ffurflen ar ein gwefan: www.menterbroogwr.org.

Newyddion

PROSIECTAU Plant a Theuluoedd: Dros y Pasg roedd yna ddigon i blant a theuluoedd wneud gyda 3 digwyddiad wedi eu trefnu gan Fenter Bro Ogwr.

Cynhaliwyd ein digwyddiad cyntaf ar y 7fed o Ebrill, sef diwrnod Hwyl y Pasg ym Mhafiliwn Porthcawl. Roedd y digwyddiad yn llwyddiant gyda phob tocyn yn gwerthu. Cafodd plant y cyfle i gymryd rhan mewn celf a chrefft, gemau, a chlywed storiâu.

Gwnaeth pawb fwynhau chwarae gemau gydag wy a llwy, rhoi trwyn ar y bwni a gwneud llwyth o gelf a chrefft megis creu mwgwd Pasg ac wy Pasg a llawer mwy.

Ar yr 8fed o Ebrill, gwnaethon ni gynnal ein hail sesiwn Bili Broga ym Mharc Gwledig Bryngarw. Cyfle i gymryd rhan mewn gweithgareddau celf a chrefft, a mynd am dro gyda stori o gwmpas y Parc.

Ar Ddydd Sul cyn i'r plant fynd nôl ir ysgol, fe wnaethon ni drefnu helfa Pasg ym Mharc Bryngarw. Roedd y plant a'r teuluoedd wedi joio, gyda rhai o'r teuluoedd yn dysgu geiriau Cymraeg newydd.

Pasg llwyddiannus o ran plant a theuluoedd, edrychwn ymlaen at weld pawb yn ein digwyddiad nesaf.

Prosiectau Ieuenctid

CAFODD aelodau o glwb ieuenctid Pen-y-bont amser anturus iawn yn ystod gwyliau'r Pasg wrth fynychu trip Antur Dros Nos.

Aethon ni i wersyll Pentre Ifan yr Urdd i wersylla dros nos a chymryd rhan mewn gweithgareddau goroesi trwy greu cysgodion a thanau gyda Swyddog awyr agored yr Urdd, Rhys Pinner. Cafodd pawb amser gwych!

Y diwrnod nesaf cawson ni antur gwbl wahanol wrth ymweld ag Oakwood. Er nad oedd popeth ar agor llwyddodd pawb i gael amser da ar yr atyniadau megis Speed, Bounce a Skull Rock.

Cofiwch fod Clwb Ieuenctid Pen-y-bont ymlaen pob dydd Mercher rhwng 6yh ac 8yh yn yr YMCA. £1.50 am aelodaeth.

Comisiynydd y Gymraeg

AR y 30 o Fawrth eleni fe ddaeth safonau'r Gymraeg yn weithredol am y tro cyntaf. Y safonau hyn sy'n dweud beth ddylai sefydliadau ei wneud yn Gymraeg.

Mae'r safonau'n creu hawliau newydd i bobl ddefnyddio'r Gymraeg.

Bydd yr hawliau'n berthnasol yn y lle cyntaf i gynghorau sir, Llywodraeth Cymru a'r parciau cenedlaethol. Dros amser fe fyddant yn ymestyn i sefydliadau eraill, gan gynnwys ysbytai, colegau, cwmnïau trafnidiaeth gyhoeddus, cwmnïau ynni, gwasanaethau post, darparwyr tai cymdeithasol, cwmnïau telegyfathrebu a llawer mwy.

Mae safonau'n seiliedig ar gyfraith gwlad; ac mae dyletswydd ar sefydliadau i gydymffurfio â nhw.

Er mwyn sicrhau bod pobl yn ymwybodol o'u hawliau, mae'r Comisiynydd yn cychwyn ar gyfnod o ymgyrchu i godi ymwybyddiaeth ohonynt. Drwy gyhoeddi fideo, tudalen ymgyrch ar ei gwefan ac annog defnydd o'r hashnod #hawliau ar y cyfryngau cymdeithasol, mae'r Comisiynydd yn gobeithio y bydd y neges yn cyrraedd cynulleidfa eang.

Mae mwy o wybodaeth ar dudalen 'Hawliau i Ddefnyddio'r Gymraeg' ar wefan www.comisiynyddygymraeg.cymru/Cymraeg/HawliauiddefnyddiorGymraeg/Pages/HawliauiddefnyddiorGymraeg.aspx>ynghyd â fideo sy'n rhoi cyhoeddusrwydd i'r hawliau newydd.

Os ydych yn dymuno i'r Comisiynydd neu un o'i swyddogion yn dod i siarad am hawliau iaith gyda'ch mudiad, yna mae croeso mawr i chi gysylltu er mwyn trefnu ymweliad.

MENTER Bro Ogwr promotes and furthers the use of the Welsh language in Bridgend county.

Our intention is to raise the profile of the Welsh language by increasing the opportunities for residents to use the Welsh language in a variety of fields. This is what's going on with us this month:

Weekly Events

Monday: Porthcawl coffee morning for Welsh learners and speakers, YMCA Porthcawl, 11am – 12pm;

Science club for Ysgol Gynradd Gymraeg y Ferch o'r Sgêr pupils, lunchtime, free;

Youth club (years 9-11), YGG Llangynwyd, lunchtime, free;

Arts and crafts club for Ysgol Gynradd Gymraeg Bro Ogwr pupils, 3:30pm – 4:30pm, £1 a session;

After school youth club, YGG Llangynwyd, 3:30pm – 4:45pm, £1.50 a session.

Tuesday: Bridgend coffee morning for Welsh learners and speakers, Tŷ Coffi Bridgend, 10am – 11am;

Animation club for Ysgol Gynradd Gymraeg Cwm Garw pupils, lunchtime, free.

Wednesday: DJ lessons club, Ysgol Gyfun Gymraeg Llangynwyd, lunchtime;

Youth club, Bridgend YMCA, 6pm – 8pm, £1 a session.

Thursday: Playground games club for Ysgol Gynradd Gymraeg Cynwyd Sant pupils, lunchtime, free;

Siop Siarad, Siop Yr Hen Bont, Bridgend. A chance for Welsh learners to ask questions and practice their Welsh with other learners. Every Thursday group 1: 12:45pm – 1:30pm. Practicing Mynediad and Sylfaen patterns, group 2: 1:30pm – 2:15pm. Start chatting in Welsh, group 3: 2:15pm – 3pm; for those who can hold a conversation in Welsh.

Friday: Youth club, Ysgol Gyfun Gymraeg Llangynwyd, lunchtime.

For more information or to book a place contact us now at Menter Bro Ogwr 01656 732200 or menter@broogwr.org or 07929 923806.

Follow us on Facebook a Twitter for all the latest news at Facebook: menterbroogwr; Twitter: @menterbroogwr. You can also subscribe to our mailing list by filling the form on our website: www.menterbroogwr.org.

Children and Families projects

OVER Easter there was plenty for children and families to do with three events organised by Menter Bro Ogwr.

Our first event was held on April 7, an Easter fun day at Porthcawl Pavilion. The event was a sell-out and a great success. The children had the opportunity to take part in arts and crafts activities, games and to hear stories. Everyone enjoyed playing games with egg and spoons, putting the nose on the bunny and making lots of things such as an Easter mask and egg.

On April 8, we held our second event which was a bili broga (frog) session in Bryngarw Country Park. This was an opportunity to participate in arts and crafts activities and go for a walk with a story around the park.

On the Sunday before the children went back to school, we organised an Easter egg hunt in Bryngarw Park. All the children and families enjoyed, with some parents, learning a few new Welsh words to add to their vocabularies. A very successful Easter with regard to children and family projects. We look forward to seeing everyone at our next event.

Youth Projects

MEMBERS of Bridgend's Youth Club had a very adventurous time during the Easter holidays on an overnight adventure trip.

We went to the Urdd's Pentre Ifan centre to camp overnight and to participate in some survival activities, building shelters and fires with Rhys Pinner, the Urdd's outdoor activity officer. Everyone had an excellent time!

The next day, we had a totally different adventure visiting Oakwood Park. Even though not all of the rides were open, we had a brilliant time on rides such as Speed, Bounce and Skull Rock.

Don't forget that Bridgend Youth Club is on every Wednesday between 6pm and 8pm at the YMCA, £1.50 per session.

The Welsh Language Commisioner

ON March 30 this year, the Welsh language standards came into place for the first time. Welsh language standards say what organisations should do in Welsh.

The standards give rights to people to use the language in their every-day lives.

Your county council, the Welsh Government and the national parks are the first organisations to start complying with Welsh language standards. Over time more will do so, including hospitals, colleges, public transport companies, energy companies, post services, social housing providers, telecommunications companies and many more.

The standards are based on common law, and organisations have a duty to conform to them.

To ensure that people are aware of their rights, the Welsh Language Commissioner is embarking on a period of campaigning to raise awareness of them. By publishing a video, a campaign page on her website and encouraging the use of the hashtag #hawliau on social media, the commissioner hopes the message will reach a vast audience.

For more information go to the Rights to Use the Welsh Language page on comisiynyddygymraeg.cymru.

If you would like the commissioner or one of her officers to come and talk about Welsh language rights with your organisation, you are very welcome to contact them to arrange a visit.

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Bridgend
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No appointment is necessary. If you are unable to attend, we can also arrange free telephone consultations and home visits.

Contact: Katie McCraith on 01656 838 543
- Katie.Mccraith@hughjames.com
- hughjames.com/medneg

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YOUR CHANCE TO SHARE THE COMMUNITY NEWS

Aberkenfig and District WI

EUNICE Williams, the president, welcomed the members to the April meeting. Happy Birthday was sung to Pat Lewis who was the only April Birthday Belle.

The newsletter was perused and several items noted. Two scams have been reported by Glamorgan Federation. One is about a WI home in Canada and a plea for donations for the upkeep, and the other is an offer of home insurance. These are not endorsed by the NFWI.

There is a competition for a sustainable garden hanging 'brasket' which is a hanging basket using a bra. The Rose Bowl afternoon event in Miskin Catholic Church Hall is on April 28 and the Annual Council Meeting in the Princess Royal Theatre, Port Talbot on May 10.

Eunice then introduced the speaker: Celyn Edwards from the National Assembly for Wales outreach team.

Celyn was a very interesting speaker who set about finding out what the members actually knew about the responsibilities of the Welsh Assembly.

This task consisted of some games which brought the members out of their comfort zones, she also told the members that only 41 per cent voted in the last Assembly election and it costs £16 billion to run Wales. Eunice gave the vote of thanks and hoped Celyn would soon get over her cold.

The competition was won by Dorothy Thomas with an Edward VII mug and the winners of the raffle were Pat Lewis and Pauline Soley.

Aberkenfig and District WI meets on the second Wednesday of each month (except August) at 2pm in the Len Evans Centre, Heol Persondy, Aberkenfig, car parking facilities available.

Visitors and new members are always made very welcome. There is always a speaker, a nice cup of tea and a chance to make new friends or revive old friendships.

For further information call Dilys on 01656 725399, visit www.cobwebs.com, or www.facebook.com/Aberkenfigwomensinstitute.

Tondu primary school

THE school's headteacher, Mrs Susan Pilcher, wishes to congratulate the eco club and committee under Mrs Richards who have successfully won the eco schools Green Flag 1st Platinum renewal.

Susan also congratulates the following who worked hard at their homework and achieved full marks last term. They are as follows:

Miss Morgan's class Cynffig: Ffion Barry, Esme Davies, Oscar Humphries, Ris Hutchinson, Hannah Joseph, Harri Reardon, Isabelle Thomas, Martin Wang, Lucas Zhang.

Mrs Wooll's class Ewenni: Ollie Clay, Mason Collier, Morgan Collier, Ava-Rose Davies, Laila Jones, Imogen Lewis, Dylan Merrett, Hayden Painter, Lily Parfitt, Jack Rose, Jack Wang, Elise Williams, Ruby Young.

Mrs Pugh's class Garw: Kaylen Alston, Iwan Baker, Demi-Leigh Collier, George Jarman-Davies, Leon Elliott, Cariad Evans, Llewys Evans, Ben Featham, Maddie Flower, Aidan Hall, Rhys Hopkins, Indiana Ludlow-Huntley, Loveday Lock, Grace Oram, Scott Paul, Aidan Radford, Isaac Reardon, Harley-Seren Terry, Ethan Thomas, Olivia-Jayne Thomas, Elaine Wang, Simon Wang, Finley Williams, Emily Wodecki, Elliott Zhang.

Miss Davies's class Ogwr: Dashtan Ali, Sophie Barrett, Josie Chan, Wil Davies, Carmen Evans, Maddie Evans, Kacey Floyd, Iestyn Galtry, Rhydian Galtry, Gracie Jones, Tom Joynson, Imogen Merrett, Charlotte Morgan, Tia Richards, Emily Williamson, Tristan Williams, Aleski Wood.

Mrs Lucas's class Rhondda: Jamie-Lee Baker, Carwyn Barry, Lillee-Eve Cronin, Sophie Featham, Cerys Fisher, Evan Humphries, Mollie Lloyd, Ffion Seal, Megan Simpson, Luke Thomas, Emily Tuck, Mason Walmsley.

Miss Greenman's class Taf : Chloe Baker, Ethan Baker, Crystal Bancroft, Thomas Chauvel, Ben Fisher, Sasha Flower, Harri Gould, Lewi Harry, Owain Hopkins, Ronnie Jones, Lara Morris, Harley Thomas, Sam Thomas, Bobby Zziwa.

Mrs James's class Tawe: Tiffany Chen, Seren Dare, Brook Hawkins, Jorja Hillman, Brooke Ockwell, Tia Ockwell, Teigan Parsons, Sophie Tipper, Tamzin Williams, Luka Wood, Jarad Young.

Miss Mahoney's class Usk: Cameron Baker, George Barry, Tegan Chambers, Josh Collier, Isabelle Evans, Johnny Evans, Dylan Griffiths, Olivia Herbert, Keira Hill, Connor Jones, Ieuan Lane, Benji Lock, Josh Payne, Molly Price, Iestyn Rees, Tyler Richards, Maddie Rose, Cleo Tapner, Iestyn Williamson.

NORTH BRIDGEND NEWS

A message for all readers in the north of Bridgend who would like to have items included in the community news columns of The GEM:

If you wish to submit reports on any social activity in this region, please contact me.

I am very approachable and will endeavour to include every newsworthy subject.

Contact details: CLIVE MITCHELL
1 Tyn-Y-Coed Close, Sarn, Bridgend CF32 9NQ
TEL: 01656 725399
email: tynycoed1@yahoo.co.uk

Plant sale

LALESTON Garden Club is holding its annual plant sale on Saturday, May 7 at 10am (no entry charge).

There are hundreds of assorted plants on offer, with lots of the old favourites but there are some new varieties also.

The ladies will be hosting a coffee morning with all the usual attractions, including a grand raffle with some excellent prizes and a cake stall. Money raised goes toward the ongoing repairs and maintenance needed at the property, which is a Grade 2 listed building, and is used well throughout the local community. There will be free parking at Laleston Inn courtesy of the landlord.

The club meets at Cliff Cottage, High Street, adjacent to the parish church. It has a thriving ladies' section which meets on the first and third Tuesday in the month at 7.30pm.

Mynydd Cynffig WI

THE president Marjorie Goode opened the meeting on Tuesday, April 12 and welcomed the members.

There were 26 members present including four visitors. The minutes of the previous meeting were read out by secretary Enid Rymer, agreed by the members and signed off. The monthly meeting for May is on Tuesday, May 3 and it is the Annual Meeting.

Marjorie has organised skittles for the May meeting.

There is a cheese and wine evening organised for the meeting in June to raise funds for the friends of Mynydd Cynffig WI.

With all correspondence completed, we welcomed the speaker and his associates who were from Something Special, Bryncae Farm, Llanharan. They specialise in cheeses of many types, organising parties, teas, and demonstrations. The cheeses were amazing and we all sampled their products.

There is no speaker next month at the annual meeting. In June we are having a talk with slides on Cardiff, given by Rosemary Sadden.

The craft, scrabble and walking groups are up and running, and the meeting finished with tea and biscuits and cheese. All meetings are held in the Talbot Centre, Prince Road, Kenfig Hill CF33 6ED.

Free courses

THESE are open to residents who live in a Communities First residential area, proof is required.

For all who enjoy exercise through dancing this is an opportunity to learn the full choreography to Michael Jackson's 'Thriller' while getting fit at the same time, at Brackla Community Centre starting Tuesday, May 3 from 4pm to 5pm. Advance booking required by calling Graham on 01656 815135 or 07815 525016.

A food preparation safety course in which you can gain a qualification is at YMCA, Angel Court, Angel Street, Bridgend on Friday, May 6 from 9.30am to 3pm.

There is an emergency first aid course, level 2 in St Mary's Church Hall, Nolton on Wednesday, May 4 from 9.30am – 3pm.

Gain the essential skills needed to give safe, prompt and effective first aid in emergency situations; a free lunch is provided. To book a place phone Jenny on 01656 643634 or 07974 399194 for both above courses.

The same emergency first aid course, level 2 in Caerau Development Trust on Wednesday, May 18 from 9.30am – 3pm, telephone Lisa on 01656 642619 / 07792 663645; a free lunch will be provided.

Tai Chi for Beginners

TAI Chi is famous as a relaxing exercise, it has many health benefits and is particularly good for arthritis.

A new beginner's class is starting at Coity Higher Community Centre, Heol West Plas, Litchard, on Tuesday, May 3 from 10am to 12 noon.

Skirts and high heels are not suitable, otherwise dress casual. There are free parking facilities.

Star pupils

THE following pupils at Tynyrheol primary school, Llangeinor gained star awards in the first week of the summer term.

Nursery: Harrison Jones for always bringing a smile to the faces of the class 1 staff!

Reception: Gracie Williams for trying hard to use the scissors to cut out her 'Healthy Eating' plate.

Year 1: Taha Altindal for settling so well into class 2 in his first week.

Year 2: Owain Standing for fantastic knowledge about the animal kingdom.

Year 3: Megan Grabham for great column subtraction.

Year 4: Charley May Osborne – for settling in so well in her first week.

Year 5: Gethyn Greest for excellent understanding of, and response to, the text, 'Holes'.

Year 6: Jamie McCann for enthusiasm when discussing the book, 'Holes'.

A headteacher's award was given to Taha Altindal for being so brave after having an accident in the yard and a big bump to his head!

The headteacher's good work awards for achievements for their writing were presented to class 1: Bella McLaughlin, class 2: Nia Lewis, class 3: Paige Penny.

Budding musicians

HERE is an opportunity to join a ukulele band, it is for musicians of all abilities and lessons will be given to beginners.

It takes place at the Cross Inn, Maesteg on Monday evenings from 7pm, but not Bank Holidays.

Curtain-Up Youth Theatre

THE members of Curtain-Up are encouraged to develop their own unique vocal ability using a range of singing styles which include pop, and musical theatre.

There is an opportunity for the public to see these youngsters performing to their full abilities at Maesteg town hall from May 5 – 6 at 7pm and May 7 at 2.30pm.

They will be performing Disney's version of *The Little Mermaid JR* which is based on the Hans Christian Andersen story. Tickets can be obtained from the box office by telephone 01656 733700

Well done!

WELL done to the organisers of the concert in Cefn Cribwr Community Centre (Green Hall) last Friday, it raised £482 for Tenovus the cancer care charity.

Colwinston's Gareth and Kath's £6,000 or cancer research

COLWINSTON couple Gareth and Kath Jones last week presented a cheque to Cancer Research Wales for £1,800, taking their total donations to £6,000.

In 2010, Gareth was diagnosed and treated for colon cancer at the Princess of Wales Hospital in Bridgend where he underwent major surgery.

As he was recovering, his wife Kath was diagnosed and treated for breast cancer, with her operation taking place at the Neath and Port Talbot Hospital.

During the latter part of 2010, they travelled together to Velindre for their separate treatments. They then decided to start fundraising for Cancer Research Wales and held a charity ball in Colwinston. This resulted in £3,000 being raised, due to the generosity of family, friends and neighbours.

Three years ago, several fundraising events took place and another £1,200 was raised with the help of the members of Miskin Masonic Lodge.

The latest donation of £1,800 was again due to the generosity of friends and Miskin Lodge members who supported a garden party, held at Gareth and Kath's house, a casino night held in the lodge and a 70s fancy dress disco.

Gareth says that without the incredible work of the researchers and the skill of the cancer specialists, their lives may have taken a very different turn. They are both "extremely grateful to all of these very clever researchers" – and also to all family, friends, neighbours and Miskin Lodge members who have supported them throughout the past five years.

The fundraising will continue in the future so that cancer will be conquered and curable for everyone.

The photograph shows Gareth and Kath presenting the cheque at Cancer Research Wales in Velindre Cardiff.

CHARITY RUN BOOSTS 'CROSSROADS'

THE trustees of Bridgend County Crossroads were delighted to receive a boost to their funds recently when Megan David, presented them with a cheque for £1,000, which she raised through sponsorship having completed the World Half Marathon in Cardiff on March 26.

Megan said: "Please may I say a huge thank you to everyone who sponsored me, I am so thrilled with this amazing amount – it has made all the hard work worthwhile, and despite the torrential rain and wind, I even managed to finish in 2 hours 3 minutes!

"I know that Bridgend Crossroads has over the last 23 years improved the quality of life for so many carers throughout Bridgend. Their small volunteer board of trustees oversee the brilliant work of over 50 dedicated paid staff, who provide flexible care – 24 hours a day, 365 days of the year – throughout the whole of the county borough.

"Carers have the peace of mind of knowing that whilst their loved ones are receiving the highest standard of care, they can look forward to enjoying time for themselves, or sometimes just getting a full night's sleep.

"Regular breaks enable carers to continue looking after their loved ones at home for longer, and therefore I am very proud to support Bridgend Crossroads, especially now when cuts to all social care budgets mean that regular breaks for carers are more important than ever".

Trustees Linda Harber, Linnia David and Ann Shillaker with Megan David.

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www.bridgend-today.co.uk
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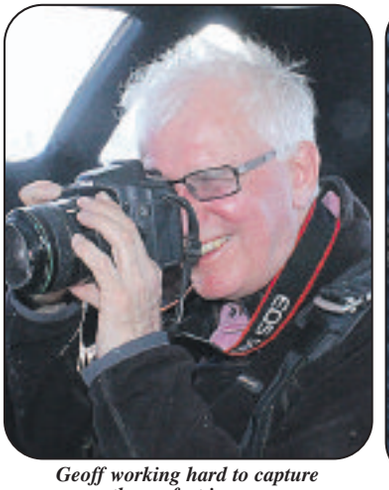
THE VALE'S GEOFF JONES CAPTURES A CLASSIC FLYING IMAGE IN NEW ZEALAND

A homebuilt two-seat biplane, Sherwood Ranger, built by one of Geoff's friends near Hereford.



Geoff working hard to capture the perfect image.

Geoff's spectacular shot of the Catalina Flying Boat.

A BARRY freelance aviation photographer has returned from New Zealand after undertaking a very special assignment.

Geoff Jones (66) who learnt to fly at Rhoose Airport in the late 70s, told The GEM: "I was able to shoot, air-to-water, the southern hemisphere's only airworthy PBY Catalina flying boat.

"It dates from 1944 and was imported to New Zealand by enthusiasts from Africa in 1994.

"It started flying again on February 28 following a year restoration process. I took shots of the Catalina landing on Lake Wanaka in the South Island of New Zealand at the end of March."

Geoff been doing aviation photography worldwide since the 1960s. One of his Catalina photos has been published in the latest edition of Flight International.

Aviation has been a huge part of Geoff's life. "I own a half share in a Jodel D120 two-seat light aircraft."

Capturing the right images is a tricky business.

"I've always been interested in photographing aircraft and the best medium to do this is air-to-air.

"It is immensely difficult to organise and requires detailed briefing and impeccable safety standards.

"The two pilots flying the camera plane and the subject aircraft have to be able to fly competently in close formation.

"The photographer relies heavily on the pre-flight briefing and the competency of the two pilots.

"It is much easier since the dawn of digital photography.

"I've had two books of air-to-air photography published in conjunction with a friend in California, 'American Classics of the Air' and 'Vintage Aircraft Over America'.

"My 16th book was published last year 'Douglas DC-3' to celebrate the 80th anniversary of the first flight of this iconic air transport airliner.

"I write and photograph on aviation topics for many magazines and media worldwide."

Go to the **The GEM** for the latest stories and breaking news...
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Coffee morning – A DAY OUT AT THE SEASIDE?

COME join us for a walk down memory lane on Friday, May 6 at the Y Centre, John Street, Porthcawl (Porthcawl Museum) from 10.30am to 12pm – bring your sun hats, sunglasses, knotted hankies and any photos you have of yourselves enjoying a day at the seaside – we would love to see them!

Entry £1.50 at the door, to include tea/coffee and cake. There will also be a raffle, tombola and themed quiz.

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Parc prisoners tackle DofE Award challenge

STAFF at HMI and YOI Parc in Bridgend are celebrating after organising a Duke of Edinburgh's Award (DofE) as part of a unique project which brings together prisoners and their families.

The Family Intervention Unit, established in 2010, has been offering the DofE since 2014, and in 2015, three prisoners received a certificate in DofE Leadership, while two of their children were awarded a Bronze DofE Award. Another two children received sectional certificates for their Skills and Physical sections.

This family intervention project is the first of its kind in the UK. Prisoners have been able to mentor their own children to work through each section of a DofE programme, and at the same time gain a valuable leadership qualification to enhance their own skills. A second group of prisoners and young people have begun work towards a DofE Leadership certificate and their Bronze DofE Award.

Stephanie Price, director of DofE, Wales, said: "Thanks to a strong vision and passionate leadership from the Family Intervention Unit at Parc we have been able to deliver the DofE in a new setting. We congratulate all the participants for the hard work and commitment made towards achieving their DofE Awards and we look forward to supporting more individuals to do the same".

Corin Morgan-Armstrong, head of Family Interventions at Parc, said: "This is a project which has delivered far more than we originally anticipated and which has brought together families in a unique way. There is already evidence to support that interventions of this nature within the custodial environment, are a causal factor in reducing reoffending, and derailing the drift into intergenerational crime."

Hayley Morris, Family Intervention Lead on the family unit said: "It was great to see the fathers spending quality time with their children, teaching them skills that they probably wouldn't even do at home."

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Luba's fond memories of skating for Her Majesty

by PHILIP IRWIN

PICTURED RIGHT: Luba Ashworth with the gala programme from 1961.

THE recent 90th birthday celebrations for Her Majesty the Queen brought back fond memories for a Llantwit Major woman.

It was in 1961, 55 years ago, that Luba Ashworth was presented to the young Queen Elizabeth at a Royal gala ice skating show.

Luba, now aged 83, told The GEM: "I was single then, and my maiden name was Luba Natova. My family had left Russia at the time of the revolution, but I had grown up in Streatham in London.

"The Queen asked about my name and enquired where I came from, so I said Streatham. She laughed and we had a chat about my family history.

"She was really relaxed and charming."

At the time, Luba was the principal skater with Tom Arnold, who was the leading skating impresario of the day.

Luba said: "I took up skating quite late, at about 12, but I made quick progress and turned professional at 16."

Her first job offer was in the chorus of a skating show at low pay, but she stood up for herself and became a principal skater – earning the princely sum of £10 a week!

The principal skater is a featured performer, doing her own solo spots, and understudying the star. For much of Luba's time in skating, she understudied Jacqueline du Bief – a former world champion.

Jacqueline and Luba became good friends. Jacqueline is now 85, but the pair are still in touch!

In those days, skating shows were not in arena venues such as the Cardiff Motorpoint Arena. In the provinces, the show still went on – even if the stage was quite small.

However, there were also more ambitious venues, and Luba remembers appearing in Peter Pan at the Empire theatre, London.

She said: "They wanted Peter Pan and Tinkerbell to fly – I was playing Tinkerbell, but the science of 'flying' on stage was in its infancy.

"After the first rehearsal, I had bruises all over my legs!"

She continued skating for Tom Arnold until she married and decided to start a family. There were offers to lure her away, one from Paul Raymond's Revue Bar, where the Soho club owner thought that topless ice skating might be a good gimmick.

Luba said: "The money was terrific, he went up to £150 a week, which was big money then, but I wasn't interested."

After she married, she came to live in Llantrisant and had two daughters. Luba is intensely proud that both entered the medical profession – one is surgeon, and one a GP.

She also has four grandchildren, and two of those are in medical school. The other two are a little young to have settled on a career path.

Helping people with their careers became Luba's own profession after she retired from skating. She worked at executive level with the agencies Manpower and Pertemps.

It was 40 years ago that she settled in Llantwit Major, and until five years ago she lived in her cottage in West Road.

The genes that made her a good skater, and her own self discipline, meant that she stayed active.

She was a regular in a local gym until the age of 81, only giving that up when she injured her back exercising her leg muscles by pressing 100kg.

She said: "I should never have tried to lift that extra 5k!"

Luba has so many memories of her life in skating.

Just one concerns the British Olympic gold medal winning free skater, John Curry.

She said: "I went to see him skate and he recognised me! He said that he had always loved watching me skate. He invited me backstage as well."

John Curry also gave her a signed photo, and he wrote to Luba: "Thank you for your inspiration."

Luba is presented to The Queen, 55 years ago.

Luba (left) with Jacqueline du Bief.

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RESIDENTS IN BATTLE TO PRESERVE VILLAGE PEACE

Stripped away trees and foliage.

THE small village of Treoes in the western Vale is known for its picturesque setting, but local residents feel they are having to fight hard to maintain its peace and quiet.

The village lies on the border with Bridgend county borough and people are concerned that activity on the town's Waterton Industrial Estate is having a detrimental impact on their lives.

Bridgend County Borough Council (BCBC) said it is currently investigating planning issues relating to the site.

Ward Jones (Bridgend) Ltd, which operates from the industrial estate, told The GEM that the company would not be making any comment at this stage.

One resident, whose house is in sight of the industrial estate, said villagers had fought a campaign in 2002 to ensure activities on the estate didn't intrude into their daily lives, but that now the spectre of noise (and the sight of the previously hidden buildings) had reared its head once more.

She explained: "We hear loud bangs and fear the noise is becoming as intrusive as before.

"We went to a hearing in 2002 and conditions were imposed on hours of operation and noise levels. It was okay until recently."

The village action group says trees and hedges that shielded the village from the industrial estate have been stripped away.

The resident said: "The noise bothers me and the building we can now see is an eyesore. We thought we had won this battle in 2002."

In 2002, Vale planning officers even arrived on the scene with sound equipment to monitor levels of noise from the estate.

Villagers say previous owners of the five acre site which acted as a buffer between the village and the industrial estate, TB Davies (UK) Ltd, gained permission for a change of use of the land so it could be used for business, industrial and storage purposes.

But under a new owner clearance work went ahead.

A Treoes Action Group spokesperson explained: "BCBC applied important conditions before the site could be cleared ready for the area to be developed."

However, villagers believe the new owner of the land Ward Jones (Bridgend) Ltd has not followed the conditions.

The group spokesperson said: "When clearance started in October last year villagers pleaded with BCBC planning officers to stop the work and all they could say is they didn't have the powers to do so. 'Clearance', they said, is not part of the development process."

The group says the developer should have presented tree, environment and landscape reports before starting clearance work.

"We believe the tree report arrived with BCBC in early April – seven months late. Villagers believe the report suggests the trees were either dead or dangerous and who now in BCBC can argue given the trees and long, old hedge are gone?"

The Treoes group says it would welcome advice from any legal, planning or environmental specialist and can be contacted at: *treoesactiongroup@gmail.com*.

Jane Hutt recently met villagers to listen to the latest concerns.

The GEM asked BCBC for its view on the villagers' concerns and the issues raised, and a council spokesman responded: *"The site is currently the subject of a planning enforcement investigation and there is a current planning application to extend operating hours on an adjacent area of land.*

"Members of the public have been invited to comment on the application, and any representations will be taken into account as part of the

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Pat Stewart, known as 'The Girl in the Spotty Dress', has now written her autobiography

A Llanmaes woman immortalised as 'The Blackpool Belle in the Polka Dot Dress' when she was featured on the front of The Picture Post magazine in 1951 has now written her autobiography.

Pat Stewart.

Pat Stewart (82) lives in quiet retirement now, but at one time she was a John Tiller Girl and rubbed shoulders with some of the most famous people in show business. Later she became a showbiz agent.

Now Pat has penned her life story, 'The Girl in the Spotty Dress'.

In it she tells of her early dancing days, brushes with the rich and famous, and the famous image that first brought her to public attention.

The image of Pat and a friend on Blackpool front became an enduring image of post-war Britain.

Pat explained: "Although it was 65 years ago, I have a clear recollection of having the photograph taken. At the time, I was working on Blackpool North Pier as a dancer kicking my legs!"

The photograph was taken by Bert Hardy and graced the front page of The Picture Post magazine's 50th anniversary edition. Bert invited Pat and fellow dancer Wendy Clark to perch on the railings of Blackpool promenade.

Wendy, sporting a white dress, was gazing down at the beach, Pat, in the polka dot dress, was in a more risque pose with the wind blowing up the dress to reveal a shapely leg.

"There was a 12 foot drop off the other side and I wrapped one foot round the railings and giggled, partly out of fright, just as there was a gust of wind – at that moment he took the picture."

Magazine readers loved the photograph for capturing a carefree, golden moment in the sunshine at the British seaside.

"The war had recently finished. We had gone through austere years, and it was a new beginning for the youth of the 1950s. Who knows why it became iconic – but it did."

Featherstone-born Pat's headteacher wanted her to be a gym teacher or physiotherapist, but her dream was to be on the stage.

Her breakthrough came as a 16-year-old when she saw an advertisement for dancers to take part in a pantomime that was due to take place at the Theatre Royal in Leeds.

Her showbiz career developed from being a dancer to becoming part of a theatrical double act 'Nick and Pat Lundon' with Bernard Bresnick. She even appeared in one show with Laurel and Hardy in 1953 and was given a signed photo.

Her association with Wales began when she met and married the Welsh comedian Johnny Stewart in Weymouth in 1956. Johnny had a long and successful career on TV, in the theatre and on the club circuit. He even appeared on Sunday Night at the Palladium.

Pat performed with and befriended some of the biggest names in showbusiness so her memoir is full of fascinating anecdotes. Among the stars she knew were Benny Hill, Morecambe and Wise, Diana Dors and the Beverley Sisters.

She and her husband even met the Kray brothers at the Park Hotel in Cardiff when she was a showbiz agent and putting on shows to raise funds for families affected by the Aberfan disaster. Despite their notorious reputation, the Krays gave £300 to the disaster fund.

Five years ago Pat hit the headlines, including in The GEM, when a woman in Cornwall incorrectly claimed that she had been the 'girl in polka dot dress'.

The result was that she appeared on the The One Show in a segment filmed at The Lamb and Flag Public House in Wick, in which it was made clear she was true Blackpool belle.

The Girl in the Spotty Dress by Pat Stewart with Veronica Clark is out now, published by John Blake Publishing in paperback and priced £7.99. It can be ordered at Amazon.co.uk.

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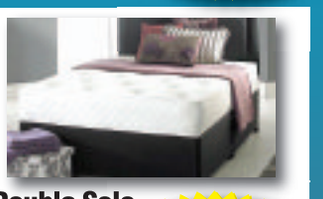

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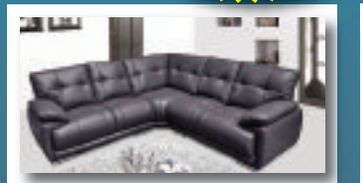

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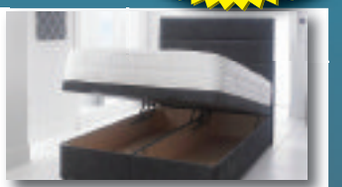

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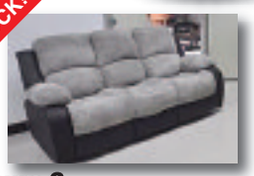

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Time capsule celebrates Bridgend regeneration

A TIME capsule buried by young carers from Bridgend Carers' Centre will celebrate the recent regeneration project for Bridgend town centre.

Front row: Chris Harvard 20, Jasmine Mackenzie 14, Aaron Bishop 11; back row: Skye Bishop 13, Charley Harries 18.

Young carers joined Coastal Housing Group to bury their very own time capsule at the new Rhiw development in the centre of Bridgend, to celebrate the housing association's ongoing regeneration work for the region.

The community-themed time capsule was filled with a range of personal items supplied by the carers, including poems, drawings, short pieces about their families and a DVD made with other young carers from the region depicting the lives of young carers in 2016 called 'Walk in my Shoes.'

The contents are set to offer a fascinating insight into the town and people living in it for future generations.

With no set time limit for its unearthing, the capsule will remain sealed indefinitely. However, with the new car park having a minimum lifespan of at least 50 years, it is hoped that the capsule will not be discovered for at least another 100 years to come.

Speaking from the event, Clare Watkins, employability and skills manager at Coastal Housing said: "Today's event signified the importance of leaving behind something meaningful to future generations, which in many ways reflects the role of a carer.

"It was great to see the carers so engaged and excited about the project.

"The aim of our regeneration programme is to make the region a better place to live and I hope that in five years' time we will see that has happened.

Looking even further ahead, it's exciting to think about what Bridgend will look like during the time period our capsule is found – whoever and whenever that may be!"

The Rhiw development forms the latest in a line of regenerative projects by Coastal.

Funded by Coastal Housing, Bridgend County Borough Council (BCBC) and the Welsh Government as part of its Vibrant and Viable Places regenerative scheme, the Rhiw is set to transform the town centre with the development of housing, commercial space and a new multi-storey car park.

Construction is anticipated to be completed by the end of March 2017.

Dying man found inspiration in art

Debbie Spencer-Evans with Steve's paintings.

Steve and Debbie Spencer-Evans.

LAST autumn, Bridgend libraries, in partnership with the Bridgend Look Up project, organised a competition inviting artists to submit designs to be replicated by street artists as part of a the local street art programme.

Despite not having an artistic background, Steve Spencer-Evans was inspired to enter after hearing about it in Bridgend Library. Steve, aged 59, had been diagnosed with terminal head and neck cancer in May 2013.

During the following three months up until his death, he worked on a series of paintings inspired first of all by his dog, Sapper and then by other animals, flowers, the boats of Porthcawl and the local mill house. One of his paintings was inspired by an image that came to him while sleeping, that of a happy Buddha surrounded by golden light. His final painting of a pair of deer was completed the evening before he died, November 18, 2015.

Steve worked mostly from photographs, capturing the images that interested him, copying them while adding his own special touches. He enjoyed experimenting with paint to create depth and was enjoying focusing on the learning journey that he had undertaken.

Steve's wife Debbie was determined that his pictures would be entered into the competition and delivered them to Bridgend library in time for the November 20 deadline.

Librarians were so moved by Steve's story that they decided to put the pieces together in an exhibition which can be seen this week in the Rhiw market. It will then do a tour of Bridgend libraries.

The library service hopes that Steve's story will inspire others to have a go at something that interests them. So many people talk about trying something new, but often find it difficult to make the initial steps. Steve demonstrated that it's never too late and that anything's possible!

A spokeswoman said: "Steve's story is so inspiring. He set his mind towards working towards a new skill in the final stage of his battle with cancer and he succeeded in producing a series of increasingly improved paintings.

"It is a testament to Steve that the art work that he created is so life affirming. He chose to produce images from within nature, of the places that he had enjoyed and one of his final pieces was of a happy Buddha surrounded by golden glowing light."

Throughout his illness Steve was supported by the Macmillan charity. "Macmillan became part of our life." Debbie explained.

With this in mind, and knowing how Steve wanted to support others a painting from the exhibition will be raffled. The public will be invited to buy a raffle ticket and the winner will be able to own one Steve Spencer-Evan's inspirational paintings. All proceeds will be donated to the charity.

The paintings can be viewed in the Rhiw market until April 29. The exhibition will then move to Bridgend library on Tuesday, May 3 and then on to other borough libraries.

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Vale dancers to perform with English Youth Ballet

EIGHT students from the Barry and Cardiff-based dance school, Nicola Peros Ballet have successfully auditioned and won places to perform in the English Youth Ballet's production of *Sleeping Beauty,* which is being performed at the New Theatre, Cardiff on August 12 and 13.

Fighting off stiff competition to win their places in the audition process, the young students Chloe Bagnall, Amber Hamling, Leah Davies, Eleanora Smalley, Elizabeth Angove, Ellie Clarke, Louise Bagnall and Bridget Peake will have the opportunity to perform alongside professional ballet dancers in a full-length version of the Tchaikovsky ballet.

The English Youth Ballet was founded in 1998 by its director, Janet Lewis, and presents full-length classical ballets in the regional theatres of England, Scotland and Wales, providing an opportunity for young dancers outside

Back row left to right: Chloe Bagnall, Amber Hamling, Leah Davies, Elenora Smalley; front row left to right: Elizabeth Angove, Ellie Clarke, and Louise Bagnall.

London aged eight to 18 years to perform in a professional setting.

Each year the professional principal dancers are joined by 100 young dancers and carry out eight performances a year.

Janet Lewis, EYB's founder said: "Now in its 18th year, EYB has built a highly successful youth dance company.

"The demand for places is expressed by the hundreds of young dancers who audition annually.

"Many of the students go on to vocational training having gained enormous confidence, invaluable performing experience and great pleasure from their involvement with English Youth Ballet."

The Nicola Peros Ballet School continues to go from strength to strength with former pupils currently progressing their training with the top vocational dance schools in the UK including The Royal Ballet School, The Hammond School, Chester, and Trinity Laban Conservatoire of Music and Dance, London.

A junior associate with The Royal Ballet School and currently training with Nicola Peros, Stefanie Maurer recently attended an RAD workshop with Ballet Cymru and was awarded a medal and £20 in RAD vouchers for her outstanding performance during the workshop.

Also, a mid-associate with The Royal Ballet School, Bridget Peake has been offered a summer school place to train with the prestigious Elmhurst School of Dance in Birmingham, which is associated with the Birmingham Royal Ballet Company.

The Nicola Peros Ballet School was also chosen to take part in the Lord Mayor of Cardiff's matinee performance earlier on this year at the St David's Hall.

For all those budding young male dancers and ballerinas, Nicola Peros Ballet will be holding some open days on May 13, 14 and 15 to allow parents and children to come along and watch classes to see if they would like to join, and start a lifelong passion for dance.

For further information on attending the open days and ballet classes visit the website: www.nicolaperosballet.com or email: info@nicolaperosballet.com or telephone: 01446 721899 mobile: 07850741136.

Rebecca's pet cat is found... AFTER SIX YEARS!

Rebecca and Chloe.

A NINE-year-old cat has finally been reunited with her owner – six years after making a dash from a vet's car park.

Tabby-and-white puss Chloe went missing in 2010 after jumping from a pet carrier in Caerphilly where she had been taken for a routine appointment by owner Rebecca Lee.

After living as a stray and being cared for by an elderly woman just over a mile away, Chloe was eventually handed into Cats Protection's Bridgend Adoption Centre where a quick scan of her microchip meant she could finally be reunited with her owner.

Mrs Lee, who had believed Chloe had died in a road accident, said she was overjoyed to be able to have her back at her home in Caerphilly.

She said: "Chloe had jumped from the pet carrier in the car park and we never saw her again. I put up posters and placed adverts and shortly after got a call to say a cat matching her description had been found dead by the roadside.

"I was devastated but came to terms with her death. Unbeknown to me at the time, it seems she had wandered as a stray before eventually finding an elderly lady who had taken her in.

"It was a real shock but lovely news to hear that Chloe had been found and was alive and well after so many years. I am delighted to be reunited with her and would advise all owners to get their cats microchipped and keep their details up to date. I would like to thank the team at Cats Protection for their part in bringing us back together at last."

Cats Protection's Bridgend Adoption Centre deputy manager Molly Hughes said Chloe had been brought in by the family of the elderly woman who had become too frail to care for her.

She said: "We scanned Chloe, which is routine for all cats coming into our care and our receptionist noticed she was registered to a different owner and address. We managed to get hold of Rebecca, Chloe's original owner, who was shocked to hear from us that Chloe was in our care.

"Chloe was nervous with us but she was very happy to see Rebecca and started rolling over and purring when she saw her.

"It's great to have been able to reunite Chloe with her family, and it was touching to see them together.

"Chloe's story goes to show why microchipping is so important and how effective it is. However, just as important as having your cat microchipped is keeping the details up to date. We often have microchipped cats come into our care and are sadly unable to reunite them with their owners because the contact details on the database are incorrect."

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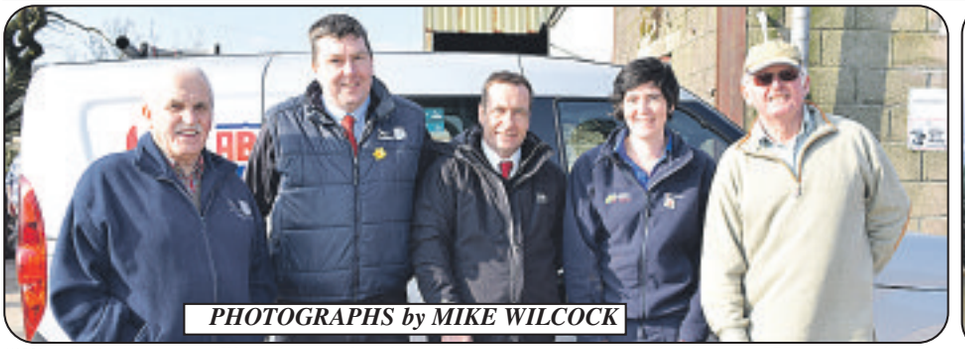

PHOTOGRAPHS by MIKE WILCOCK

TV news were on hand to interview Abi Reader (on right).

THE role that farmers play in supporting rural businesses is something often forgotten or overlooked by some politicians and decision makers, and that's why NFU Cymru recently enlisted the support of Glamorgan County Chairman, Abi Reader, to provide an illustration of the impact that agriculture has on the wider rural economy.

Abi explained:"As well as producing food, farmers support a wide and diverse range of rural businesses, which in turn provides work and opportunities for local people.

Throughout the farming calendar, a farming business supports a whole host of rural firms and people.

"We employ a number of staff, who themselves have homes and families to support. Last year alone, 15 students passed through the farm, who studied a range of topics from veterinary and agriculture to media studies and geography.

"The students enjoy coming to a working farm, and our current vet carried out a lot of training here on the Goldsland herd. Farmers are an invaluable resource, not only financially, but in securing a skilled workforce for the future."

Last year, the mixed dairy/arable holding used in excess of 70 companies and many took the opportunity to show their support to Abi, all driving home the message that farmers are such an important part of their own core business.

Abi contonued: "The support shown for this initiative just goes to show how the money that farmers receive via the single farm payment and Rural Development Programme cascades through the wider rural economy."

The family have recently shown their commitment to the dairy industry by investing in a new GEA Westfalia 20:20 milking parlour.

Abi said: "Our old milking parlour had been condemned, which forced a decision on whether we should invest or get out. We invested heavily in the dairy sector.

"The project saw three local contractors enlisted for site clearance and the building of the new structure. We used local builders, electricians and fabricators. We had the confidence to invest and the project supported so many other businesses."

Companies represented at the farm included three different harvest contractors, and their combined work force would reach 40, all of whom are local.

Machinery dealers, vets, agricultural merchants, fuel suppliers and engineers were also all represented.

Abi continued: "The key message is that if we were not farming and trading, then all of these businesses with whom we deal regularly would lose out. The opportunities we provide for community and wildlife groups, as well as the knowledge we give to students, should not be underestimated.

"Our contribution to those around us is undervalued and I sincerely hope Welsh Government realise what we offer as an industry – not only in terms of food production but as employers, mentors and landscape custodians as well."

Abi Reader, who hosted the visit at Goldsland Farm, Wenvoe, thanked everyone for coming along and showing their support to her family's farm business.

Goldsland is approximately 800 acres. Their milking herd consists of 200 and they have 100 acres of arable land and 150 sheep.

Group's day out in Monmouth

The Friends and Neighbours group at the garden centre.

FRIENDS and Neighbours first trip of 2016 went off with a bang with a brilliant day out to Monmouth, the Welsh market town situated at the confluence of the Rivers Wye, Monnow and Trothy.

The members enjoyed looking around the bustling main street and indoor market.

They also enjoyed visiting many of the attractive shops selling antiques and taking time to have a coffee/tea and cake in the old tea rooms and cafes, with many taking the opportunity to sit outside in the sunshine.

They went on to Wyevale Garden Centre in St Mellons, Cardiff, which had recently reopened following its fire some three years ago.

Many of the members had been before the fire. and they marvelled at the change and how bright, airy and modern it was.

Many of them looked around the gift shops which were very reasonably priced, and the plants, many of them getting a bargain.

They are now looking forward to the June trip to Weston Super Mare.

Contact 01446 400044 for further information. There is a waiting list for the popular group.

GAY FIFIELD

Runners team up for Maggie's Centre event

EPILEPSY specialist nurse Lisa Phillips is all set for her next fundraising challenge – and she has enlisted plenty of support to join her.

Lisa was honoured for her charitable work at last year's ABMU Chairman's Awards after she marked her 50th birthday year by taking part in five different runs, including the London Marathon, for two charities.

This year, she is part of a 25-strong group which has organised a run from Princess of Wales Hospital to Maggie's Centre at Singleton Hospital on Saturday, June 18.

Alan Roberts, who works in the IT department at Neath Port Talbot Hospital, is a member of Port Talbot Harriers and running club members will be hitting the road alongside other ABMU colleagues.

On their way to Swansea the team will be calling in at Neath Port Talbot Hospital and Port Talbot Cricket Club, to pick up other runners who don't want to tackle the entire 24 miles.

Lisa says the idea is that everybody – no matter how far they have run – finishes the event which is raising money to support the work of Maggie's, together.

Lisa also hopes to boost the final total by auctioning a signed rugby ball donated by the Ospreys.

If you would like more information about the run or want to bid for the ball, contact Lisa on 07815 951037 or email *lisa.phillips@wales.nhs.uk* or to donate to their total go *www.justgiving.com/maggiesrunners*.

Testing questions on immigration

BORIS JOHNSON has suggested that President Obama has an "ancestral dislike of the British Empire" because of his own heritage.

Speaking on BBC Radio 4's The World at One, UKIP leader Nigel Farage agreed, saying: "I think Obama, because of his grandfather and Kenya and colonisation, bears a bit of a grudge against this country."

My question is this: If UKIP's policy is to have immigration from former colonies on the grounds that Commonwealth immigrants assimilate better than those from eastern Europe, why is Nigel Farage agreeing with Boris's comments?

And if Nigel does think that people from the 'new' Commonwealth harbour a grudge against this country due to their history, why does he wish them here, in preference to those without such a history (Europeans)?

Russell White, c/o Populist Party, Broadstone, Dorset.

PACT in the Vale

COURT PACT meeting at the Witchill Community Hall, Dyfan Road, Barry, on Thursday, April 28 at 6.30pm.

GIBBONSDOWN drop in at Aberaeron HUB, Aberaeron Close, Barry, every Monday between 10am and 12 noon.

DINAS POWYS PACT at Youlden House, Fairoaks, Dinas Powys, on Thursday, April 28 at 7pm.

COWBRIDGE Coffee and Chat at the Red Fox, Penllyn, on Wednesday, May 4 at 11am.

COWBRIDGE PACT at the Fire Station, Druids Green, on Monday, May 9 at 11am.

RHOOSE Coffee and Chat at the Fox & Hounds, Llancarfan, on Tuesday, May 10 at 11am.

Cadoxton WI hear what's in store this year

MONDAY, April 18 was the annual meeting for Cadoxton WI.

The president welcomed Jane Excel who is the new advisor and liaison officer and Jane officiated over the evening's proceedings.

Two members retired and two new members were appointed.

The secretary gave her annual report detailing all of the events that Cadoxton had taken part in during the last year.

The president outlined her hopes for the forthcoming year. and thanked the committee and members for their loyal support.

There were several invites from other WIs as well as the ongoing programme. The raffles were won by Gail Summerell and Audrey Stansfield.

Meetings are held every third Monday, 7pm at Victoria Park Community Centre. Visitors are always welcome; contact 01446 404891.

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Romilly Old Boys get together a final time

IMAGES by VICKY MORTIMER-BROWN

ROMILLY Old Boys' 50th anniversary reunion was held on Friday, April 8, at Cadoxton Conservative Club, Weston Square, Barry.

It was a great opportunity for friends from many years ago to meet up once more and reminisce about the good old days. It may be the final reunion as it takes quite a bit to organise.

However, keep an eye out in The GEM over the coming weeks, because organiser Alan Kingdon and the old boys are promising to make some donations to a local school in honour of the 50th anniversary.

'You don't look any older!' Friends catch up on all the news at the latest Romilly reunion

IMAGES by VICKY MORTIMER-BROWN

ROMILLY Old Boys' 50th anniversary reunion drew people from far and wide and as you can see from all the smiles, the guys had a great time

Thanks go to the organisers and Vicky Mortimer-Brown who took all the images of the evening.

Go to the **The GEM** for the latest stories and breaking news...
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www.cowbridge-today.co.uk
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'As summer approaches, parks and open spaces in Vale are benefitting from Council investment'

READERS of this week's GEM should already be aware of the latest exciting development at Barry Island.

The resort continues to go from strength to strength and its ongoing resurgence, sparked by the regeneration programme led by the Vale Council, has now brought the first open top bus service to the resort for 20 years.

Since we began our work to bring Barry Island back to its best we have always been mindful of the need to improve transport links.

This is why the council has improved the road layout, enhanced parking provision, established a park and ride service, and of course brought forward the construction of the new link road.

It is also why we have worked with the operator of the new open-topped bus service to bring the route to the Island and provide yet another way for visitors to access the resort, perhaps even with the wind in their hair!

The past month has also seen another important development for the Vale's transport network.

I have often referred in this column to the ways in which the Vale Council works with other public organisations and the voluntary sector to help our resident's access the services they need.

The launch of the community transport scheme that will serve the new Dinas Powys Medical Centre is another excellent example of this partnership working.

As many GEM readers will know the new centre has now opened, and it will serve 10,000 residents in a modern, high quality facility that will enable the delivery of first class care services to the local area.

During the consultation process that preceded the building of the new centre, one of the most common concerns raised was the difficulty that some residents may have in getting to the new site.

I was delighted therefore when our transport team presented me with a plan to address this perceived obstacle.

From this month, in order to help local residents to reach the new centre, the Vale Council and Dinas Powys Voluntary Concern (DPVC) will be working in partnership to provide free transport to the medical centre.

Any Dinas Powys resident will be able to call on the service, which is being provided using a vehicle purchased by the council and driven by DPVC volunteers.

The service will be available every weekday morning to transport residents to pre-booked appointments. Then, in the afternoons, the vehicle will be made available to members of Greenlinks, the council's community transport scheme, which anyone can join.

In other news, as well as green links there will be many more green fingers in the Vale over the next few months as the council's seasonal summer parks team begin their work.

On top of the six award-winning 'Green Flag' parks, there are scores of other play areas and green spaces across the Vale.

These require considerable upkeep during the summer months to keep them looking their best and I am confident that this year's team will enthusiastically meet that challenge.

Two parks that will certainly be looking better than ever this summer are Victoria Park and Hatch Quarry in Barry.

As regular GEM readers will already have seen, Victoria Park has had a full restoration of its iconic bandstand and I was recently at the opening of a new play area in the Hatch Quarry.

With so many green spaces across the Vale valued by our residents, we are of course not stopping at these two.

Over the course of last year and during 2016 a long list of parks and play areas will see the benefits of council investment. I look forward to updating readers via this column as our work progresses, and seeing even more families enjoying these fantastic spaces.

Finally, I would like to use this month's column to make GEM readers aware of a significant change in how they can access information on the care and support services available to them as Vale of Glamorgan residents.

The Social Services and Well Being (Wales) Act came into effect on April 6, 2016, and this new law gives everyone in Wales a greater say in the care and support they receive, and also places a greater emphasis on promoting people's independence to give them a stronger voice.

With more people needing care and support in Wales, the country as a whole needs to work more effectively to deliver social services.

In the future the provision of care will involve local authorities, health boards and the third sector organisations working in partnership to provide information, support and services to those in need.

An important part of the Act is to provide improved access through an 'Information, Advice and Assistance Service' that will enable people to access the right help, at the right time.

One of the ways in which the Vale Council will achieve this is by providing access to a national resource directory called Dewis Cymru via our website.

The Dewis Cymru directory will give people easy access to accurate information at any time.

It will be available throughout the whole of Wales and will include services provided by local authorities, health boards, third sector and the independent sector.

It really is a great resource and one that I'm sure will have a real impact in terms of helping people find the care and support that they, or their friends and family, need.

GEM readers can find out more about the impact of the Act and the Dewis Cymru search tool at www.valeofglamorgan.gov.uk.

VIEW FROM THE VALE

by Coun **NEIL MOORE** Leader of the **Vale of Glamorgan Council**

Local library can show you how to code

Fun at the coding club in Pencoed Library.

CALLING all Minecraft fans! Pencoed Library is now offering free weekly computer programming workshops for children and adults, in the first library-based coding club to be launched in the county of Bridgend.

Using the programming languages Scratch and Python, which are both ideal for beginners, a volunteer tutor and tech enthusiast will be teaching the basics involved in creating online graphics, animations, characters and computer games.

The coding club takes place from 11am to 12pm. All abilities are welcome. There are a limited number of computers and IPads available to use on a first come, first served basis, so participants are advised to bring their own laptop or tablet with them.

For further information, contact Pencoed Library on 01656 754840.

TV licensing reminder to all caravan owners

WITH many people about to flock to holiday hotspots across the Vale and Bridgend county borough over the May bank holiday, TV Licensing is reminding people to check they are correctly licensed, as some caravan owners will need a second TV licence.

Although the majority of UK homes are correctly licensed, holidaymakers who plan to watch or record live TV in their static caravan or mobile home will need a second licence if TV receiving equipment is in use at both addresses at the same time.

If a TV set or other equipment is never in use at both locations at the same time, one licence will cover both addresses.

Touring caravans and motor-homes are covered by the TV licence at the holder's home address and so do not require an additional licence.

You can find out if you need a licence, buy one or tell us if your details have changed on our website www.tvlicensing.co.uk/info.

Leicester's Restaurant receives prestigious award

LEICESTER'S Restaurant at the Great House Hotel in Laleston, Bridgend, under the direction of head chef Thomas Heaney, has been voted Best Hotel Restaurant 2016 for the whole of Wales.

The annual award was made by the prestigious Food and Drink Awards Wales, hosted by Creative Oceanic.

Brackla PACT meeting today

BRACKLA PACT *at Brackla Junior School, Brackla Way, Thursday, April 28 at 6.30pm.*

Follow The GEM on Twitter - find us *@gem_news*

Six candidates standing in Vale for the National Assembly for Wales

LAWRENCE Andrews, UKIP Wales; Denis Campbell, Welsh Liberal Democrats/Democratiaid Rhyddfrydol Cymru; Ross England, Welsh Conservative Party; Alison Haden, Wales Green Party/Plaid Werdd Cymru; Jane Hutt, Welsh Labour/Llafur Cymru; Ian Johnson, Plaid Cymru – The Party of Wales.

The election is being held on May 5 from 7am to 10pm.

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Out & About with The GEM

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Cheadle's biopic is Miles Ahead of the pack

by GARETH JAMIESON
Follow Screen Talk on Twitter – @GEMScreenTalk

DON CHEADLE has developed a reputation for being one of the most consistent and impressive performers in recent times (even including his dodgy 'Lahndahn' accent in the Oceans films), but the actor has yet to take his talents behind the camera – at least, until now.

Cheadle's passion project has been a biopic of jazz musician Miles Davis, considered one of the most influential musicians of the 20th century, and it reaches cinemas in *Miles Ahead*. As well as directing, Cheadle plays Davis in a story set in the 1970s.

When Davis is approached by journalist Dave Brill (Ewan McGregor) for an interview, Davis takes Brill on a journey to retrieve master tapes that he believes to be his. Criss-crossing between this tale and his past, the film tells the story of how Davis became the icon he is today...

The passion project can either be a blessing or a curse, a huge success or a gigantic disaster. For Don Cheadle, *Miles Ahead* is pressure enough, not to mention that he is in the director's chair for the first time – would this be another case of actor's folly?

Thankfully it isn't – what it is, instead, is a shaggy dog biopic, a film that gives you a glimpse into the craziness of Miles Davis' life without resorting to a formulaic, A-Z of the genre, enlivened no end by enjoyable performances and Cheadle's stylish and invigorating direction.

It's not a film that digs too deeply below the surface – there are no clips of a young Miles making his formative steps in learning to play the trumpet, the sort of thing that are ten a penny in most biopics.

Instead, using the template of latter-day Miles and Dave Brill's caper to retrieve the stolen master tapes, we have a framework that Cheadle and fellow screenwriter Steve Baigleman use to weave in moments from Davis' past, most notably his relationship with wife Francine (Emayatzy Corinealdi), and seeing how we get to latter-day Miles.

It's a fresh take on what could have been a very staid and dry film, but Cheadle's direction is another of the trump cards played here. The film moves around with a confidence and ease of pace that belies the fact that this is Cheadle's first time behind the camera.

Having worked with some of the top directors, he certainly isn't short of inspiration, but if you were going to pin down one influence that comes across it would have to be Steven Soderbergh, and the way the camera just meanders through film with a languid feel.

For a film about a jazz musician (a description Davis certainly wouldn't approve of), there is much of that music's feel in Cheadle's direction, the editing and composition of the film giving an air of improvisation and detached cool that marks out Cheadle as a director with real potential.

The performances are extremely enjoyable, with Cheadle chief as the irascible genius; whether it's in Davis' earlier years, as we see him cajole and persuade Francine to curtail her own ambitions for him, or the later years as his frustration at the music industry and those trying to benefit off his back, Cheadle is quietly magnetic, delivering a wonderful turn.

Ewan McGregor enjoys himself in a freewheeling role as the comically duplicitous journalist who goes wherever the story is with scant concern for the impact it has on others, while Emayatzy Corinealdi is strong as the love of Davis' life and the always-watchable Michael Stuhlbarg as a seedy manager who finds himself embroiled with Davis.

If the film has a fault it's only that the flashback sequences lack the fizz and life of the framing narrative, that the cliches you so often find in these films are more apparent here than elsewhere.

However, it's a small complaint about what is, on the whole, a fun and engagingly delivered story about one of music's true geniuses.

VERDICT: A superb telling of an interesting life, *Miles Ahead* captures the liberated and loose personality of the subject matter wonderfully well, in what is an auspicious debut for Don Cheadle behind the camera. He's pretty impressive in front of it as well, and while it perhaps doesn't dig too deep, it still works as an unconventional look at the life of Miles Davis. *Recommended*.

SEE THIS IF YOU LIKED: *Get On Up* (2014), *I'm Not There* (2007).

Ty Hafan lottery draw winners

THE following are winning numbers in the Ty Hafan Crackerjackpot lottery draw number D928.

- **£2,000:** 545727.
- **The rollover, which is currently £5,000, was not won this week.**
- **£10:** 267448, 594873, 579800, 350238, 102285, 864447, 401689, 940670, 616958, 736683, 785140, 853899, 698745, 526804, 598280, 598988, 000737, 000632, 001397, 1985416.
- **£5:** 294011, 548658, 143942, 403625, 611393, 580431, 767477, 285440, 159990, 569808, 933009, 162468, 524173, 112840, 286437, 808602, 330971, 924603, 111249, 416632, 764895, 790535, 361777, 403058, 228338, 356396, 361197, 815253, 975391, 326143, 748456, 319670, 857982, 795099, 182878, 891060, 209962, 707326, 542959, 569660, 282104, 152150, 478975, 725543, 520671, 524465, 129838, 800723, 992001, 453893, 723247, 374534, 117096, 727779, 249997, 555158, 000123, 000730, 1818119, 1984995.

The GEM cannot be held responsible for any errors or omissions contained in the above.

For lottery information please telephone 029 2053 2300.

Best foot forward for the Walking Festival

THIS month, Valeways, supported by the Vale and Barry Town Councils, will greet the Spring with the 2016 Vale of Glamorgan Walking Festival in this, the charity's 20th birthday year.

Vale residents and visitors alike are welcome to join in a host of themed walks through the spectacular coastal paths and country lanes of Glamorgan. From May 19–22, whether you're interested in wildlife, geology, family fun, art, heritage and history, or just plain walking, there'll be a trail for you.

Valeways chairman, Phil Gibbins, said: "There's so much variety; we'll be hosting two events which harmonise, as it were, with the Vale Music Festival; so you can start or finish your walk with a concert.

"Or if you've always wanted to wander where the dinosaurs roamed, you get your chance with a guided geological trail at Lavernock, a big favourite.

"Other highlights include a bi-lingual Welsh/English family fun trail and a bird-spotting session around Cosmeston. There'll be plenty of history and heritage events, and, for something completely different, there's the entirely self-explanatory Vale ale trail.

"The guided walks are completely free – they range from under two miles to over eight miles, everyone is welcome, there's no need to book – just turn up and go!

"People should check the mileage of the walk, to ensure they'll be comfortable with completing it," said Phil.

"And, of course, we do tell people to wear appropriate footwear and come equipped for rain or shine. Then, just enjoy spectacular landscape, stories of the Vale, and friendly company.

"We had a great turnout last year, and this year – when we reach the grand old age of 20 – we hope for record participation."

For full programme go to: www.valeofglamorganwalkingfestival.org.uk /phone Valeways 01446 749000. For further information, contact Penny Fell 01446 781383 or Carolyn Gully at 01446 749000.

WHAT'S ON, AND WHERE IN THE AREA?

Fundraising for the RNLI

THE RNLI spring coffee morning will be held at All Saints' church hall, Penarth on Saturday, April 30 from 10.30am – 12pm.

Cakes, souvenirs, bottles, bric-a-brac and a raffle: all are welcome, £1 entry.

Author signing in Penarth

GRIFFIN Books in Penarth has its monthly late night shopping evening tonight (Thursday, April 28). This month the shop welcomes guest author and Penarth resident Cal Bartley, who will be discussing and signing copies of her recent novel *Strong Undercurrents*.

Entry is free and refreshments will be provided – all are welcome.

Cowbridge Art Society

ON Thursday, April 28 the art society has a change in programme and is now holding a still life drawing/painting session.

On Thursday, May 5 there is a demonstration of oil painting techniques by Penarth artist Sheridan Ward (see www.sheridanward.com)

CAS welcomes artists of any ability and also non-artists who would like to see demonstrations of various art techniques or attend illustrated lectures. We meet on Thursday evenings at the Old Hall, Cowbridge 7pm – 9pm and occasional visitors and new members are most welcome.

For details of the society's activities see www.cowbridgeartsociety.com

Zumbathon at KPC!

COME along for a fun Saturday morning on April 30 from 10am – 1pm for the KPC Zumbathon, at Kenfig Hill RFC.

Do as much, or as little as you want; sponsor forms available. Tickets £6 in advance or £7 on the door, under-12s £3.

For more information call 01656 749219 or kpcyouth@hotmail.com.

Barry War Museum

THE museum at Barry Island railway station will be open from 11am – 4pm on Saturday, April 30, Sunday, May 1 and Monday, May 2.

The museum is also open every Wednesday 2pm – 4pm. The photograph of the American 'doughboys' on King Square is well worth inspection!

The Barry at War Group is still looking for a 1940s-era stove and a wash boiler for our wartime kitchen. – could you help at all?

Lions' May Fayre

THE Porthcawl Lions' May Fayre takes place on Bank Holiday Monday, May 2, from 11am – 4pm at All Saints Church, Victoria Avenue, Porthcawl.

Stalls, bouncy castle, dog show at 1.15pm, teddy bears' picnic from 2pm-3pm. All proceeds to local and national charities.

Flautissimo perform

THE Southampton flute orchestra will be playing at All Saints' Church, Victoria Square, Penarth, on May 2 at 1pm. Entry is free. Bring your lunch, teas/coffees provided.

A concert on Monday, May 9 will feature Nigel Lloyd-Layham.

TeleV project

THE TeleV Project aims to improve quality of life by helping vulnerable people manage the risks of living in their own homes, with a simple device.

Find out more on Tuesday, May 3 (10am – 12 midday) at Age Connects Senior Health Shop, 38 Holton Road, Barry. Call 01446 732385 for further information.

Coffee morning – a day at the seaside?

COME join us for a walk down memory lane on Friday, May 6 at the Y Centre, John Street, Porthcawl (Porthcawl Museum) from 10.30am to 12pm – bring your sun hats, sunglasses, knotted hankies and any photos you have of yourselves enjoying a day at the seaside – we would love to see them!

Entry £1.50 at the door, to include tea/coffee and cake. There will also be a raffle, tombola and themed quiz.

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Plaid want more details on the reorganisation of secondary schools

PLAID Cymru have called for more detailed information after the Vale Council announced a change of plan for the future of secondary schools in Barry.

In October last year, it was suggested that Ysgol Bro Morgannwg would be expanded, and that Barry Boys Comprehensive would, in effect, merge with Bryn Hafren to create a new mixed English-medium school.

After the plans were presented, an advisory board was set up, with representatives from the three schools affected, and the result of their deliberations was presented to the Vale Council's lifelong learning scrutiny committee last week.

The report agreed in principle that the preferred option was to:

• Expand Ysgol Bro Morgannwg on its current site with a new entrance from Port Road;

• Build a brand new 11-18 mixed sex school on the site of Barry Comprehensive School;

• Create a modern, 11-18 mixed sex school by refurbishing and modernising the Bryn Hafren buildings.

Coun Chris Franks said: "The Plaid group has been concerned to see standards rise in the English Medium secondary schools for many years.

"So the continued delay in modernising the buildings has been very frustrating. However, simply reorganising Barry Comprehensive and Bryn Hafren is not enough in itself."

He said that Plaid members were concerned about how pupils would be protected from disruption during the building programme.

He said: "The proposal to spend £900,000 on environmental improvements, including redecorations, was interesting. It was made clear at the meeting that Barry Comprehensive would be totally demolished.

"The council will have to show that spending this sum for such a short period before demolition is value for money. Plaid also wants to know what physical improvement will take place at Bryn Hafren.

"A big question is what will be the final costs. Parents will need to be reassured on this vital matter.

"Let's be blunt the results from these schools must improve. For too long a time pupils have not fully benefited from educational opportunities."

£930 handed over to local charity

VALE PLUS, an independent day service provider based in Barry and Llantwit Major, is one of the charities Soroptimist International Barry and District is supporting this year.

Bet Francis, on behalf of the members, recently had the very pleasant task of presenting Steve Thomas, one of the founder members, with a cheque for £830 raised at a fundraising Welsh evening, together with a cheque for £100, donated by the Canton Male Voice Choir, who performed at the event.

A group of members spent a very enjoyable and uplifting morning at ValePlus and were extremely impressed with the happy and caring environment. Steve thanked the club for its welcome donations, which represented a substantial contribution towards the target for their minibus appeal.

The photo shows Bet (far left), and Steve (fourth left), with club members and Soroptimists.

To find out more about the club visit www.sigbi.org/barry-and-district.

CSD

'Ride with the Pride' Velindre fundraiser memory of Richard

VELINDRE Fundraising is delighted to announce the official launch of 'Ride with the Pride', its latest overseas challenge.

The 400km challenge Ride with the Pride offers an unique opportunity to cycle with British and Irish Lions, and an All Black in New Zealand in June 2017 and takes in some of the most stunning scenery in the world.

After a hard day's cycling, riders will also have the opportunity to relax in their hotel and watch Lions matches against the Crusaders and Highlanders with players who have actually experienced these types of matches. The ride finishes close to Rotorua where the final Saturday game against the Maori will be played.

The first test match takes place in Auckland

the following week.

Mike Hall, who is a patron at Velindre, said: "I've been fortunate enough to take part in three overseas challenges for Velindre over the past few years; but this ride is particularly poignant as I, along with my close friends Paul Guy, Peter Knight and Andy Martin, will be cycling without our great friend Richard Crane, who sadly passed away in October after battling this awful disease.

"We will certainly not be lacking for any motivation to complete this challenge, and we would urge anyone who likes rugby, cycling, or just want to take part in a once in a lifetime event for a fantastic cause to sign up straight away as spaces are limited."

Andrew Morris, head of fundraising at Velindre, said: "Ride with the Pride promises to be one of the most spectacular events we have ever organised. It's a breathtaking route and we are really pleased to have such fantastic names to lead the ride.

"If you are interested in finding out more, email *info@velindrefundraising.com or phone 02920 316211.*"

The New Zealand Ride with the Pride bike ride takes place from June 9 to 19, 2017, registration for the trek is £200 and participants will be required to raise a minimum of £7,000.

Celebrate 'Yarn Shop Day' (in Dinas) April 30

WHETHER you're a crochet expert, novice knitter, or just fancy trying out a new craft, don't miss Yarn Shop Day.

On April 30, the third annual Yarn Shop Day will take place in knitting and craft stores across the country, and local business the White Gecko Craft Lounge in Dinas Powys is just one of the many stores delighted to be involved.

The event has been organised by leading publications *Let's Knit* and *Let's Get Crafting* in a bid to celebrate Britain's much-loved independent wool shops.

"We're very happy to be taking part," said Siân Morse of the White Gecko Craft Lounge.

"Yarn crafting is really growing in popularity, and customers rely on their local yarn shop for more than just needles and wool.

"Our shop offers a range of craft goodies and workshops plus coffee and cake – it's the ideal place to get advice and to feel part of a crafting community."

On Saturday, April 30, the White Gecko Craft Lounge will be holding 'The Great Camms Corner Gecko Hunt', plus knitting and crochet classes and a charity bake sale.

"We are looking forward to welcoming customers old and new through the door, and hope our local knitters and crocheters will get involved."

Last year over 200 outlets across the country took part in the day which proved to be a great success.

Let's Knit editor Sarah Neal commented: "There was a fantastic buzz among participating stores, and many shops reported one of their best ever days of trading.

"This year's event will be even bigger and better, so if you're a crafter who has neglected your local yarn shop in the past then it's definitely the day to pay them a visit and see what they have to offer you."

Yarn Shop Day is supported by leading names in the knitting and crochet industry. For more information visit www.letsknit.co.uk/yarnshopday.

NEWS IN BRIEF

Valeways walks

ON Sunday, May 1 at 2.30pm, 'Around Ancient Llanblethian', starting at Cowbridge cattle market car park (SS 992747).

On Tuesday, May 3 at 10am, Crwydro, Gorsaf Rheilffordd, Ynys y Barry.

Also on May 3 at 1.30pm, 'Tinkinswood from Dyffryn', starting at Dyffryn House visitor car park.

On Wednesday, May 4 at 10.30am, the Coffee Shop Strollers of Barry meet at Romilly Cafe, Cold Knap, Barry.

Spring fayre

THE Parish of Merthyr Dyfan is holding a spring fayre on Saturday, May 7 from 2pm-4pm in St Paul's Community Hall.

There will be a raffle (first prize £50), hampers, cake stall, bric-a-brac, bottles stall and refreshments.

Cowbridge social bingo

DESPITE the fact that several folks had started their holidays, there was quite a good turnout for the last meeting; it was a good session, which everyone enjoyed.

The next one will be held on Thursday, May 12, at 7pm for 7.30pm in the Lesser Hall of the Town Hall, Cowbridge.

Apart from Bingo, there will be a raffle and members are invited to bring prizes for this.

May I suggest unwanted wedding or birthday presents which we can discreetly get rid of, so that no-one is offended?

There will be the usual superb buffet prepared by the ladies at no cost to your good selves.

So, please join us for what we hope will be some harmless fun, not forgetting your wine, dabber, and perhaps a few friends.

See you there!

BASIL WATKINS

CHANNEL COAST SURF CLUB'S BEACH CLEAN

ON Sunday, April 17, Channel Coast Surf Club again teamed up with Surfers Against Sewage, to take part in the nationwide Big Spring Beach Clean series.

Close to 50 club members, friends and family took part on a bright sunny morning despite a rather brisk north-westerly wind that added a chill to the welcome sunshine.

Recent tides and strong swells had washed much of the marine litter up into the meadow and car park giving our volunteers a large area to cover. Undeterred, the team collected a significant amount of marine litter, rubbish and trash, leaving the beach and surrounding area for all to enjoy.

Marine litter has become a massive global issue - recent studies indicating that plastic particles are being digested by marine life, which subsequently passes into the human food chain.

While the scale of the problem is global, we can all do our bit by picking up and binning litter left on our beautiful coastline.

A big thank you to all those who took part.

CH

Lifeguards are on duty this weekend

RNLI lifeguards will be on duty in Porthcawl for the first time this weekend when their service begins on two of the town's busiest beaches.

The Mayday bank holiday weekend will see the charity's lifeguards on patrol at Trecco Bay and Coney Beach, offering safety advice and assistance to beach goers.

Go to the **The GEM** for the latest stories and breaking news...
www.barry-today.co.uk
www.cowbridge-today.co.uk
www.llantwit-major-today.co.uk
www.bridgend-today.co.uk
www.porthcawl-today.co.uk

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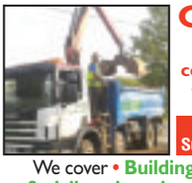
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covering The Vale & surrounding areas.
Loads from £135
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We cover • Building/groundwork & civil engineering • All size track machinery with drivers available • Suppliers of top soil • Suppliers of sub soil • Suppliers of re-cycled stone • Suppliers of quarry stone
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We cover all aspects of Design and Build.
For more information please call Byron on: 01446 700535
01446 700535

The Glamorgan GEM
Food For Thought...

There's just so much choice when you dine out around the Vale

ONE real plus point of casting your eye around the Vale when you fancy dining out is the sheer range of culinary experiences on offer.

All the traditional boundaries between eating establishments faded away long ago.

There was a time, for instance, when restaurants were the destination of choice for fine dining, while pubs were the place to go for good old homely grub, with no fancy sauces or continental-style menus!

Pies, chips and gravy were the staples then, but the revolution in *Masterchef*-style cooking has thrown everything back into the mix.

Nowadays, if it is cutting edge cuisine that puts your saliva glands into overdrive, you will find chefs cooking with imagination and ambition in a wide range of venues.

What's more, as this revolution in cuisine has continued, there has been an overall raising of standards throughout the Vale as diners expect more when they eat out.

Whether you fancy, Italian, Oriental, barbecue, great steak, Indian, haute cuisine, tapas or simply good hearty good value food, there is something for everyone in the area.

And all that competition has had another effect too. Prices remain keen as establishments seek to attract their valued customers.

Bon appetit!

YOUR Sunday lunch GUIDE
Enjoy your time with family & friends

SUNDAY LUNCH AT A PUB OR RESTAURANT IS GREAT FOR GETTING THE FAMILY TOGETHER

SUNDAY lunch is a revered British institution – a time in the week when busy families and friends often decide to gather at a local restaurant or pub to spend quality time together.

The beauty of it is that everyone is relaxed and not anxious to race off to the next activity on their agenda.

It provides a welcome alternative to hours preparing Sunday lunch at home (*and avoids the washing up!*).

Because everyone is relaxed, it is an ideal opportunity to catch up on all the latest family news.

Now that sunnier days have arrived, families may plan outings to a weekend leisure or sporting event, or a trip to the beach.

What better appetiser – before everyone goes their separate ways – is there than meeting up for a traditional roast, or a vegetarian or fish dish, if that's what you prefer.

In both the Vale and Bridgend areas, we are blessed with a host of high-quality establishments – some with seating outside. And as spring turns to summer there's a real pleasure eating in the open air.

There are often children's facilities available, so the kids can play on a bouncy castle or climbing frame, while mum and dad or the grandparents relax, knowing their youngsters are safe and fully occupied!

Pubs and restaurants offer special Sunday deals – geared to the number of courses required; while for those who are unable to get out, there are Sunday lunch delivery services.

No one has to miss out on that well-loved national institution – the British Sunday lunch!

Victoria Inn
SIGINGSTONE
Nr Cowbridge
CF71 7LP
☎ 01446 773943
A popular choice!

Serving food ~ all day ~
Friday, Saturday, Sunday and Bank Holiday Monday May 2nd

Bank Holiday Monday special
Fresh Battered Cod, chips, mushy peas, bread & butter
only £7.95

Normal menu also available

Sunday Roasts
Selection of 4 meats & some specials, vegetarian & child options
Served 12pm-8pm
Food served Tuesday to Thursday 12pm-2.30pm & 6pm-9pm

Family Run Free House
4 Star Accommodation
Child and Dog friendly
www.victoriainnsigingstone.co.uk
(Five minutes from Cowbridge)

CWM TALWG

SUPER ~ SUNDAY ~ ROAST
A SELECTION OF HOME COOKED ROASTS INCLUDING TOPSIDE OF BEEF OR ROAST CHICKEN FROM £7.99.
~
ADD ANY STARTER, AND ANY DESSERT WITH A SUNDAY ROAST £2.00
(T&Cs APPLY)
PUB, GRILLS & MORE...
PLAS CLEDDAU, SEVERN AVENUE, BARRY CF62 7JL
01446 732602

the STAR INN Wick

Welcomes our new chef, Colin Thomas.
Thursday May 12th
6pm & 8pm (2 Sittings)
We are holding a
FREE BUFFET STYLE SAMPLE EVENING
Come and try what our new menu has to offer
Menus available to view on www.thestarinnwick.co.uk
Book before Tuesday 10th May to avoid disappointment...
Tel: 01656 890080
Ewenny Road, Wick CF71 7QA
www.thestarinnwick.co.uk

The Wenvoe Arms
Traditional Sunday Roast
Served 12-3pm
Choice of locally sourced fresh meat and vegetables
1 Course £7.95 • 2 Courses £9.95
3 Courses £11.95
Children's Menu • Vegetarian Option
BEER GARDEN • AVAILABLE FOR FUNCTIONS
18 Old Port Road, Wenvoe CF5 6AN
Wenvoe - 02920 591129

THE SIX BELLS
Penmark
Village Pub & Restaurant
TRADITIONAL SUNDAY ROAST
Choice of 3 meats & fresh vegetables
Fish & Vegetarian options · Children's Menu
Restaurant & Light Bites Menu Served
Bank Holiday Monday 12-6pm
Beer Garden for Alfresco Dining · Booking Essential
All our meats are sourced from local farms
01446 710229
www.sixbellspenmark.co.uk

The FONTYGARY INN

Come & enjoy the Bank Holiday Weekend with us
Open all day during the holidays for delicious home cooked food
Friday 12-9pm, Saturday 10am-9pm, Sunday 10-5pm & Bank Holiday Monday 12-9pm.
Home Cooked Traditional SUNDAY LUNCH
Served 12-5pm; choice of local meats, fresh vegetables.
3 Courses only £12.95
Children's menu & vegetarian option available.
Mon-Thurs STEAK NIGHTS
8oz sirloin-2 for £14.50
Thursday night is CURRY NIGHT
Get £2 off all home made curry meals
LUNCHTIMES
3 Course Lunch
Mon-Sat 12-3pm
Only £9.95
Lighter options menu available Mon-Fri £4.95.
BREAKFAST
Served Saturday & Sunday 10am-12noon
Live ENTERTAINMENT
Every Friday & Saturday evening & karaoke on Sun 1st May & 29th May
CHILDREN'S PLAY AREA
Fully enclosed with an activity centre
Visit our Facebook page or our website
www.FONTYGARYINN.com
to keep informed of all our offers, entertainment and menus.
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ST ANDREWS MAJOR GOLF CLUB
Coldbrook Road East, Nr Cadoxton, Barry, Vale of Glamorgan, CF63 1BL.
Sunday Carvery 12pm to 2pm
1 Course £8.50
Book before 3pm on the Saturday & pay only £8.
2 Courses £10 • 3 Courses £12
Under 10s main meal £5
No increase for Father's Day, so book your table today!
Tel: 01446 722227 www.standrewsmajorgolfclub.com

Three Horseshoes Country Inn
MOULTON, Nr BARRY
01446 710428
www.3horseshoespub.com
Traditional Sunday Lunch
Served all day from 12 onwards
Combination roast, choice of 2 meats & fresh vegetables
All our meats are locally sourced from The Vale of Glamorgan
Children's meals, vegetarian options & normal menu
Outdoor & indoor children's play area
Beer garden & large car park

GLENBROOK INN
FREE HOUSE & RESTAURANT

Traditional Sunday Lunch
Served 12-4pm
Choice of 4 meats, fresh seasonal vegetables.
Starter & dessert selection.
1 Course £7.95 • 2 Courses £10.95
3 Courses £12.95 • Children's Menu Available
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Dobbins Rd, Barry CF63 2NP
www.glenbrookinn.co.uk
Tel: 01446 747808

the STAR INN Wick
Ewenny Road, Wick CF71 7QA
We would like to welcome our new chef, Colin Thomas, to the team.
Traditional Sunday Lunch
Served 12-4pm • Choice of 4 Roasts
1 Course from £8.95 • also Set Menu available
Childrens meals available • Vegetarian pre-order advisable • All menus available on website
Specials available • Patio Area
Tel: 01656 890080
www.thestarinnwick.co.uk

KNIGHTS SAY 'NAY' TO THE SCORPIONS!

IF rugby league was split into quarters, one would say that the second quarter performance from York City Knights was the reason they won the game against South Wales Scorpions.

York notched up 28 of their 40 points between the 19th and 40th minutes, and apart from that spell, the game was a fairly even affair, the Welsh going away from the game with a lot of credit and even drew the second half where it was one converted try each.

Scorpions started with some good attacking play after winning a penalty from kick-off. Two sets culminated in a cheeky grubber from Gaylor that went a bit too far for anyone to pick up.

York scored from their first real attack in the 10th minute, as, following a penalty, Tyler Craig scored in the corner. Danny Nicklas converted.

Scorpions continued to play well for the next 10 minutes. Christiaan Roets was solid and kept out a second try, picking up a grubber from Pat Smith, while a Gaylor chip kick almost got to Emanuelli, who was pouncing and ready to score. York only just cleared up.

York's second came on 19 minutes when Harry Carter was sent under the sticks by a neat pass. Nicklas' goal made it 12-0.

That opened the floodgates. A good move for York's third try ended with Josh Tonks running through. Nicklas converted.

Kris Brining built on being dummy half and threw up to run in for York's fourth. Nicklas' goal made it 24-0.

Two minutes before half-time, Mark Applegarth stormed over for their fifth that Nicklas improved.

There was still time for Brining to score his second. Nicklas missed for the first time making it 34-0 at the break.

Scorpions' coach Phil Carleton must have given his players a stern half-time talk as the second half was a far more even affair.

York scored first, as from a penalty seven minutes after the interval, Pat Smith ran through and Nicklas converted.

The Scorpions soon struck back after a winning of penalty of their own. Roets using his strength to power over. Emanuelli converted.

They were almost over again a number of times, the closest coming when Luke Nelmes was stopped short before a nice bit of magic between Emanuelli and Dai Evans almost led to a try, but Evans was forced into touch.

York did have a few attacks near to end but a strong Scorpions defence meant that they didn't cross the line again, and it was Phil Carleton who looked happier than his opposite number James Ford at the end, despite the loss. **IG**

Delyth's off to a good start!

Delyth Thomas' Callymay ridden by Simon Walker, winning the Purebred Arabian Handicap Stakes before a large crowd. PICTURE BY DEBBIE BURT.

THE Arabian horse racing season got under way at Chelmsford recently and one owner/trainer who got off to a good start was Aberkenfig's Delyth Thomas, who took three horses to the all-weather track and came away with two winners and a third.

Delyth hasn't been dubbed the All Weather Queen for nothing and her Callymay, at six the youngest horse in the race, ridden by top rider Simon Walker, landed the Purebred Arabian Stakes beating Vendetta. In the No Risk Al Maury Handicap Stakes.

Her prolific Noble Athlete who at 14 was the oldest horse in the race, gave Charlie Price, aged 18, his first winner in only his second ride.

Charlie, who is attached to Tim Vaughan's Aberthin yard, hails from Brecon and has had a few point-to-point rides on no-hopers but will probably be in more demand after this win.

Charlie had his first ride on Konk which finished third in one of the earlier races.

Delyth's granddaughter, Rebecca Thomas, who can be seen leading in Noble Athlete, is a singer of note and has appeared in pantomines with Owen Money.

BRIAN LEE

Cadoxton ladies win trophy

ON Saturday, April 23 at Sully Bowls Club, the team from Cadoxton (Barry) WI won the GFWI Bowls competiton.

It is the second time the team have won and Cadoxton (Barry) WI are delighted.

The trophy will be presented at the council meeting in Port Talbot on May 10.

Well done ladies, and thank you.

CW

Beth (16) to play for Wales

CONGRATULATIONS to Beth Edwards of Cowbridge Comprehensive year-9.

She has been selected to play for the basketball Wales under-16 squad and will attend an international tournament in Belgium in May.

This is in preparation for the 2016 FIBA European Championships in Andorra in July. We wish her every success. Well done Beth!

Barry RFC Seconds suffer semi-final heartbreak...

BARRY second XV travelled to the capital for a Tuesday night semi-final tie against league champions St Josephs.

The green-and-white's preparations for their third semi-final in as many seasons were not ideal, with their arrival delayed by rush-hour traffic, alongside the usual last minute withdrawals.

Coach Rhidian Scott and manager Ken Chow were forced to reshuffle the pack, which saw Jordan Clarke promoted to the starting line-up and Chris Chucas poised on the bench for his second game of the season.

The lack of preparation for the game hampered Barry early on, as it was the side from the capital which looked more threatening.

However, at this stage, the Barry defence kept their discipline and held firm for no score.

Barry began to exert their impression on the game when strong runs by Dave Provis and Dave Williams in midfield briefly opened up the St Josephs defence, but a lack of cutting edge saw them empty-handed this period as well.

While the Barry scrum were working hard to demolish their opposition, the line-out was an altogether more random affair, and from this set piece St Josephs were allowed to build up pressure, which they ruthlessly took advantage of to score an unconverted try.

Barry came back strongly towards the end of the first half, and utilised their dominant scrum on the opposition line, only for them to choose the wrong option when their forwards were marching towards a try and the chance was gone.

That provided the momentum swing for the Cardiff side and when Barry were down to 14 men, they struck twice to put the game seemingly beyond doubt.

First, prolonged pressure on the Barry line yielded a converted try, before a penalty kick put them 15 points clear following yet another Barry infringement.

The poor discipline by the Vale side at this point was hampering any chances of an unlikely comeback, and lesser sides would have folded with the floodgates blasted open.

Barry threw on James Sullivan for the last quarter as a last throw of the dice, and it worked instantly.

The St Josephs scrum was demolished yet again, and after Barry had won the ball against the head, incisive runs from substitutes Curtis Miller and Chucas gave Rhys O'Sullivan the opportunity from five metres out.

There was no stopping the replacement hooker as he crashed over for his second try of the season. Tiernan Scott added the extras as the momentum appeared to swing again.

Somehow Barry indiscipline - or otherwise the official's whistle - came back to haunt them and far too often promising attacks broke down.

Barry pressed hard in the dying seconds but could not produce another score to create the thrilling finale the game deserved as they exited the Mallet Cup at the penultimate hurdle yet again.

Despite the loss the management would like to congratulate the team on their spirit and heart shown in a game with minimal preparations.

This shows how much the side has grown since the difficult start to the season when they did not break their duck until December.

Let us hope that this momentum can continue into the upcoming season.

Team: Jones; Clarke, Provis, D Williams, Knapman; Scott, Mepham; Hall, Such, Ring, Dutton; Miles, Frenay, Goodfellow. Replacements: Sullivan, O'Sullivan, Chucas, Miller, J Williams. Man of the match: Frenay.

KC

...but the Thirds reach cup final!

BARRY third XV were looking to reach their first final since their reformation on a fine Wednesday night, with Caerau providing their hurdle.

Selector Ken Chow and manager Frank Greig were boosted by the return of Maltese internationals Dominic Busuttil and John Dimond in the back-line, while Ashley Brown played his first game for over a year.

The injection in new personnel saw the third XV start superbly, instantly putting their visitors under immense pressure.

Former Welsh international Jon Bryant provided the focus of both attack and defence, and following Caerau indiscipline Ashley Forrester was given the opportunity to take three points, but his kick skewed wide.

Despite playing against the elements in the first interval, Barry were dominant in the scrum and were the side doing all the running.

More incisive running from Bryant, Brown and Jon Morris almost opened the door for the first score, before the ball was recycled to Busuttil who made no mistake from five yards. Forrester added the extras to give his side a deserved seven point lead.

Barry then somewhat dropped their intensity while Caerau improved as the half went on, and despite the away side having precious little invention behind their forwards, they fed on some home errors and indiscipline to kick themselves back to the game. Three penalty opportunities were all converted to overturn the deficit.

The hosts awoke from their slumber and picked up their discipline, and the result was instantaneous.

After gaining territory via Ryan Corrigan's boot, intense pressure on the Caerau line finally told when Dimond barged through for a try. Forrester failed to add the extras but Barry were back in the lead, 12-9.

Both sides rang the changes after the interval, with Jack Giddings making his first appearance for Barry this season from the bench, and his industry around the park was rewarded by a penalty opportunity in front of the posts, which Forrester's boot made no mistake with.

The game wore on relentlessly and ferociously, with players beginning to feel the high tempo of the match. Barry introduced veterans Jason Evans and Gerwyn Pugh in an attempt to close out the game, but two more kickable opportunities were spurned by the boot as the final whistle neared.

The hosts were made to pay for their lack of ruthlessness in attack when Caerau piled on the pressure in the final 10 minutes.

With Barry down to 13 men, the away side camped for an eternity on the home 22, only to find defenders in their way to thwart that vital score.

Barry looked to have ridden the storm when they turned the ball over on the line, but somehow gifted possession back to Caerau when the resulting scrum resulted in a knock on of their own.

The resultant phases of play saw the visitors battering on the door, which finally relented with barely a minute to go, resulting in a try in front of the posts.

With the seemingly unmissable conversion to come Caerau looked to be in the driving seat, but the pressure by the charging Barry defenders distracted the kicker enough for him to pull his kick under the posts.

With a slender one point advantage, Barry finally put the game to bed by playing out the last 60 seconds as twilight approached, and with it a chance to win silverware at the end of the season, sparking wild celebrations.

The management would like to thank all 21 players used for this gruelling contest and also the magnificent support from the fans and members of the club. We shall see you at the final.

Team: Forrester ©; Bailey, Busuttil, Evans, Peake; Corrigan, Dimond; Fortt, Brown, Taylor; Adams, Chucas; Nicholas, Morris, Bryant. Replacements: Compton, Hunt, Evans, Giddings, Pugh, Adams. Substitute not used: Chow. Man of the match: Bryant.

KC

Anniversary race not to be missed

THIS year will be the 80th anniversary of the Cock o' the Bristol Channel Pilot Cutter race, inaugurated to commemorate the days when these famous craft sailed from Barry and competed to be the first to land a Pilot on ships inbound to the ports of the Bristol Channel.

The finest sailing craft of their day, most are well over 100 years old and have been preserved with such and dedication that they are still able to deal with the rugged conditions found in the Channel.

The competitive spirit amongst the crews who sail them today is as hard as in the days when their livelihood depended on keeping them at sea in all weathers.

Ships due to take part are Agnes, Mascotte, Dolphin, Olga, Jan Roelan, Alpha, and the Peggy and should make a wonderful sight off Barry.

By courtesy of Associated British Ports, it is planned that some of the boats will lock in on April 29 at 2pm to lie on Enterprise Quay overnight before the race.

It is a rare opportunity to see close up these stunningly beautiful craft which are so much part of our town's maritime history.

The race itself, will start at 12 noon on Saturday, April 30, from a line outside Barry Harbour. The footpath around Nell's Point will provide a perfect vantage point to see the start from 11.30am onwards.

From Barry, the boats will race around Lundy Island some 60 miles to the west, then back to Barry arriving late Sunday or Monday depending on the weather conditions.

The race this year is being sponsored by Simon Winter Marine and, as is usual, the fastest in the fleet will be presented with the much coveted Barry Yacht Club Burgee emblazoned with a cockerel which is traditionally flown at the masthead, a signal to all that this boat is the fastest in the fleet for the current season, hence the name of the race.

The race will be managed by Barry Yacht Club, with race organisers Roger Donkin and Brian Dotchon.

HL

Broome Lane is Chepstow winner

BROOME LANE, a seven-year-old bay mare owned by Mr Wayne Jones and trained by Tim Vaughan in the Vale, landed the Sun Trade Windows Handicap Steeplechase at Chepstow last Friday.

The only mare in the 10 runner field, as well as the youngest horse in the race, the bottom weighted Broome Lane, partnered by Tom O'Brien, swept her rivals away to win by nine lengths from Trillerin Minella at odds of 10-1.

BRIAN LEE

Go to the **The GEM** for the latest stories and breaking news...
www.barry-today.co.uk
www.cowbridge-today.co.uk
www.llantwit-major-today.co.uk
www.bridgend-today.co.uk
www.porthcawl-today.co.uk

Five out of five for Cowbridge under-10s!

The Cowbridge under-10s squad.

FOLLOWING the last three years successful tours to the London Irish tournament, the coaches and parents of Cowbridge RFC under-10s wanted to play different teams to challenge the boys, so decided to attend the Birmingham and Solihull Bees rugby festival at the weekend.

The festival was very well attended with squads from all over the midlands and promised the boys a very full day of rugby, with 12 teams being entered in our age group.

First up for Cowbridge 1 was the fancied squad from Sandbach, who had won their last few tournaments. Sandbach started strongly, caught us napping and opened the scoring.

The boys reacted well and replied soon afterwards through James Collingridge. The remainder of the game was all one-way traffic, with Cowbridge piling on the pressure, crossing the Sandbach line on four separate occasions, only for the try to be disallowed every time, so the game was tied 1-1.

Kidderminster were up next, and the boys really didn't play to their usual high standards in the very cold and damp conditions, drawing the game again 2-2, with tries coming from Harry New and Jake Davies.

Luckily they had a break before the next game, allowing the coaches to have a long talk to them. This seemed to work, as they didn't look back and began to improve.

First they beat Droitwich 2-0, with tries from George Tuckley and Harry, then won 3-0 against Stourbridge with tries from Jake and Osian Bruce (2), before turning on the style in the final pool game against the home team, Solihull Bees, running out 6-0 winners with tries from Osian (2), Harry, James C, Henry Whitehouse and Jake.

Cowbridge 2, started against Kidderminster 2, who caught us napping and despite some valiant defending, opened up a 2-0 lead.

The boys pushed them hard in the second half and made some fantastic runs, but were stopped just short of the try line on numerous occasions, only to lose the ball and have Kidderminster score another two tries. Final score 0-4.

Next up was Moseley and we were determined not to start slowly again and Joe Davies opened the scoring with a delightful run down the line.

That seemed to spur Moseley on, who scored four unanswered tries. The boys did not give up and finished the game strongly with tries from Josh Canning and Leo Beghini. Final score 3-4.

Having finished the previous game much the stronger team, Cowbridge 2 continued in the same vein in the next match against Sandbach 2. They dominated from start to finish with excellent all round teamwork.

The forwards turned the ball over and passed it out to the backs to allow them to cross the try line on four occasions, try scorers Paddy Whitestone (2) and Leo (2).

Wolverhampton 2 came next and the strength of the squad was on full display once again with a dominant performance, out-playing their opponents in the opening stages, racing into the lead with tries from Joe D (2) and Paddy.

They then relaxed slightly which let Wolves back into the game, scoring two late tries, but the boys held out for a well-deserved 3-2 win.

The final match was against the Wolverhampton 1 team, who had won all their previous games, and they proved a little too strong, putting in some very hard tackles and gaining possession which they converted into tries.

At no stage did we give up and fought hard until the final whistle, but lost 0-4. The boys played well all day and finished third in their pool.

As a result of drawing the first two matches, Cowbridge 1 didn't win their pool, but went through to the semi-finals having finished second, where we faced the winners of the other pool, Wolverhampton 1, who had been playing a very physical style of rugby in their pool matches, which they attempted to do against us.

Our forwards were up to the challenge, putting in some strong tackles, knocking their much larger opponents backwards and rucking them off the ball. They couldn't handle the pace of the game and we ran out comfortable 4-1 winners, with tries from Osian, Harry, Sam Sheppard and James C.

We were once again through to a tournament final where we would play our first opponents of the day, Sandbach, to decide the overall tournament winners.

Both teams had remained unbeaten all day and Cowbridge were determined to put right what they saw as the wrongs they suffered in the opening drawn match.

It was a very tight game, with Cowbridge on the attack for the opening period of game and Sandbach defending extremely well.

Although we were playing expansive rugby, passing the ball out wide to stretch them, their defence held firm, until Henry W burst through the final tackle to open the scoring.

Sandbach came out very strongly in the second half and it was our turn to defend. Our forwards stood strong once again and despite Sandbach camping out on our line for what seemed like an eternity, they couldn't break through.

Slowly we began to push them back, turned the ball over in the ruck and passed it quickly out to the wing for Jake to race to the line for our second try and what proved to be the final score of the game.

This is now the squad's fifth tournament victory out of five this year. The season ends this weekend and sees us playing in the very large Abergavenny tournament, where we hope to close the year with a six from six tournament record - wish us luck! **AL**

Llantwit Major are four-some!

CARDIFF Corries ran Llantwit Major AFC ragged for the best part of an hour, before the irresistible Luke Cox and Rob Jones finally got the home side running.

The opening exchanges belonged to the visitors who had a few decent chances before their striker was found unmarked 12 yards from goal. He finished superbly to give the Corries a deserved lead on 20 minutes.

This did result in Llantwit responding a little more positively, with a series of attacks which resulted in little more than a huff and a puff towards the visitors' well-protected goalkeeper.

On the 40 minute mark, the first period of posession resulted in a steady, crisp build up from the right hand side. Lewis James, Jon Fletcher and John Butler eventually freed Luke Cox in the inside left position.

In his accustomed style, Luke ghosted inside two defenders to find the space to unleash a shot from 20 yards and Llantwit were on level terms at half-time.

The second half was different in that Llantwit found themselves further down the pitch and with the lion's share of possession.

The midfield began to dominate proceedings and the defence tightened up their act significantly.

Chances were on the horizon and after a series of free kicks and corners, Rob Jones put the home side ahead from a keeper fumble. He gratefully slotted home from within the six yard box.

Cardiff Corries were still creating half chances, but were forced to take off their danger man upfront. Llantwit manager Karl Lewis saw the opportunity to take the game by the scruff of the neck and Lee Jones, Cat Thomas and Glyn Davies were introduced.

The tired visitors were run ragged in the last 20 minutes and Lee Jones put the result beyond doubt with a neat close range finish, while the livewire Luke Cox made it a fine brace for himself with Llantwit's fourth in the final minutes.

The 4-1 result was a little flattering, but the three points were deserved as Llantwit Major look to secure the highest possible position in the Welsh League Division 3.

Currently sixth, the aim must surely be fourth or fifth and, with nine games to play, the ambition and drive is still there

Team: J. Lansdown, J. Fletcher, D. Lansdown (L. Jones), R. Morgan, J. Roberts, J. Butler, G. Jennings (J. Thomas), M. Morgan (G. Davies), R. Jones, L. Cox.

DJ

NO REST FOR THE REDS!

SUCH are the state of the junior football fixtures after the winter's poor weather that on Monday evening Cowbridge Town Reds played their third match in seven days and Llantwit Major for the second time in a week, this time away from home at Windmill Lane.

The Reds were keen to put last week's disappointment behind them and started the game in that fashion with Jac Roberts hitting the post inside the first two minutes.

Shortly after the Reds were awarded a free-kick on the edge of the Llantwit box and Akka Guwy stepped up to dispatch an unstoppable shot into the corner of the net.

The Reds' lead didn't last for long with Llantwit equalising minutes later but the Reds pulled ahead almost immediately after a teasing corner from Akka was sliced into his own net by a Llantwit defender.

The Reds continued to building pressure and further goals came from a 30-yard lob by Benji Mulcahy and a cool finish by Craig Tapsfield from a clever through-ball to make the score 4-1 at half-time.

The second half was a tighter affair but the Reds' defence, ably marshalled by captain Rhys Hardman, held tight and the Reds were then able to extend their lead after a bizarre handball scenario led to them being awarded a penalty which was converted by Craig via the post.

Midway through the half a strong drive from midfield and a good finish enabled Llantwit to pull a goal back. However, the Reds finished the game on the front foot after good ball-winning work from Akka in midfield enabled him to carry the ball forward before playing in Ruben Davies, who finished calmly to make the final score 6-2.

On Saturday the Reds travelled to Cogan to play Cogan Coronation for the second time this season.

On a glorious morning for football the Reds played downhill in the first half and started the game on the attack with a number of shots on the Cogan goal.

An early goal by defender Ben Cooke from a corner, followed by one by Steffan Evans from a Harry Treharne through ball, settled any nerves and the Reds started to build pressure and play some attractive football on a good playing surface.

Despite dominating play the Reds took some time to extend their lead until Ruben Davies opened his account having been played in by a quality ball from Akka Guwy.

Chances were created from well-taken corners by Steffan and Finlay Ball but again the Reds could not capitalise until Ruben claimed his second shortly before half-time to make the score 4-0.

The second half started in much the same way the first had ended with Ruben notching his hat-trick, calmly lobbing the keeper having been played through on the right after a crisp passing move involving several players.

Harry was finally rewarded for his hard work after keeping the ball in play on the byline and scoring from a tight angle.

The Reds' seventh goal came after some pinball in the Cogan area with Tom Collingridge's shot hitting the crossbar, Steffan's follow-up header being well saved by the keeper before Ruben was finally able to put the ball away.

The next score came from Tom Collingridge as he finished off another flowing team move. Steffan then managed his second of the day with Harry also claiming his brace, having been set up by a back-heel from Ruben.

The final goal came from Akka who was unselfishly assisted by Benji Mulcahy, making the final score 11-0.

Squad: Finlay Ball, Tom Collingridge, Ben Cooke, Ruben Davies, Steffan Evans, Akka Guwy, Rhys Hardman, Will Harris, Aaron Holcombe, Aron Kempson, Toby Mallett, Tom McCarthy, Benji Mulcahy, Ifor Rees, Jac Roberts, Craig Tapsfield, Edward Thomas, Harry Treharne.

SE

Cowbridge Darts League round-up

ON Tuesday, April 19, the Edmondes Arms hosted the men's doubles knockout competition - the two winning pairs who will meet on finals night (June 11 at the Six Bells Inn) were Martin Thomas and Paul Butcher (Edmondes 'B') and Paul Cates and Luke Woolf (Highwayman Inn); on his way to the final Paul Butcher hit a 180.

On the same evening the Farmers Arms hosted the ladies' doubles knockout competition - the two winning pairs who will also meet on finals night were Pam Adams and Maureen Fleming (Farmers Arms) and Hilarie Coles and Joan Burt (Old Post Ladies).

The 2015-2016 final league standings: champions: Edmondes B (105 points), runners-up: Highwayman Inn (91). Llanharry (86), Six Bells Inn (75), Edmondes A (71), Farmers Arms (69), Edmondes C (68), Farmers B (H&H) (60) and Old Post Ladies (23).

Next Tuesday, May 3, the Edmondes Arms will host the ladies' singles knockout competition.

The evening of darts starts at 8.15pm and spectators are welcome. For further information e-mail Paul at cowbridgedarts@gmail.com, up-to-date information can be found on the website: www.darts.apsn.co.uk.

PJT

Black belt success for Leah

CONGRATULATIONS to Leah Godfrey (13) of Cowbridge Karate Jutsu Kai on achieving her first dan black belt.

Leah, who previoulsy studied another form of karate, joined CKJK almost five years ago as a brown belt.

She was required to retrain in the CKJK style for three years to regrade her brown belt before further progression.

Her black belt award was acheived by a culmination of a 12 month probation period followed by grading examination over a three day period and including 20 continuous fights.

Cowbridge Karate Jutsu Kai are a thriving, volunteer-run organisation established over 30 years ago.

For further information please visit www.cowbridgekarate.com or the Cowbridge Karate Facebook page.

RN

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Dinas' clash with Llantrisant goes down to the wire

A sun-drenched Common provided perfect conditions for running rugby, and the crowd that gathered were rewarded with a humdinger of a match between Dinas Powys RFC and Llantrisant RFC, the result of which was decided in the final minutes of the contest.

The visitors from Llantrisant dominated the early period of the contest and after a series of rolling mauls, the inevitable try was scored.

The home side were finally getting into the contest as they enjoyed a period of possession in the visitors' 22-metre area. The try-scoring opportunity was wasted as a two-man overlap was squandered by the throwing of a long miss pass that was intercepted by the visitors' right wing, who raced 95 metres to score a try that was converted.

After a quarter of the contest the home side were trailing by 12 points and facing an uphill challenge against an accomplished Llantrisant side.

The visitors had a full back with a huge boot who gained huge territory, a faultless lineout and were a well-drilled unit with an accomplished set of three-quarters.

The response from the Villagers during the remainder of the first half was a period of exhilarating running rugby that saw them run in three stunning tries, resulting in 19 unanswered points.

The quality of the interplay during this period was outstanding as the home side ran the ball from all areas of the pitch, outside half Ben White controlling the game masterfully and centre Bryn Evans giving his forwards a target to rampage over, producing fast quality ball for the excellent scrum half Sam Middlemiss.

The Villagers opened their account with a try from full back Rhys Evans following fine interplay between White and Tom Davies, allowing Evans to cross in the left corner.

The home side were rampant and a hurried clearance kick by the visitors saw full back Evans beat the first tackler with a burst of pace before kicking over the advancing defenders, regathering the ball and scoring under the posts.

The final try of the first half was the finest try seen on the Common this season; White ran from deep in his own half, the ball was passed between forwards Gareth Williams and Lewis Dunleavy, who returned the ball to White to cross for a sensational try in the right-hand corner.

The outside half, enjoying his finest performance of the season, converted his try from the touchline and the Villagers led by 19-12 at half-time.

The visitors levelled the score after 10 minutes of the restart, as their scrum half crossed for a try that was converted after a sustained period of pressure.

The second half was a tense affair, played in good spirit as two well-matched, accomplished sides strove for victory.

Strong carries by flanker Ryan Shallish and Huw Thomas saw the Villagers start to gain the territorial advantage that drew the penalty which allowed the home side to take the lead through the boot of White as the game entered the final quarter.

The defensive display from the home side during this final period assured victory as huge tackles by number 8 Josh Dunleavy and skipper Rhys Gambold prevented further scoring by the visitors.

The climax of the game saw the Villagers enjoy a sustained period of pressure as the forwards drove towards the touchline, but chances were not taken as final passes were not thrown or went astray.

Victory was finally guaranteed as the ball was moved sweetly along the backs to release the admirable Tom Davies on the right wing to cross in the corner in the final minute of the game.

A stunning bonus-point-gaining victory against a side that are pushing for promotion will hopefully allow the youthful home side to push for a strong finish to the season.

Congratulations to the Dingoes on gaining victory over Fairwater in the semi-final of the Mallett Cup, earning themselves an outing at Cardiff Arms Park on Friday, May 13.

HJ

VALE HORSE WINS AT LYDSTEP

***NORTHGEORGE*, an eight-year-old bay gelding owned by Talygarn's Steve Young, trained by Merthyr Mawr's Jonathan Tudor and ridden by Cowbridge's Byron Moorcroft, finished one-and-a-half lengths ahead of stable companion *Mumbles Pier* (Richard Patrick) when winning the three-and-a-half miles west Wales Area Club Members' Conditions Race at the Tivyside and Carmarthenshire Point-To-Point Steeplechases at Lydstep near Tenby on Sunday.**

Tudor, a former leading rider himself, said: "He a tough old horse and this was his ninth race of the season. This is the first time I have had a winner and the second in the same race."

The day's riding honours went to Welsh champion rider John Mathias, who chalked-up his 200th winner when winning the opening subscribers and farmers race on the odds-on *Qalinas*, who led four fences from home to score by five lengths from *Fair Duchess* (Richard Patrick). Mathias' wins include 17 under rules.

He also won the open maiden race on *Glenteeneasaigh* and the restricted race on Princess Tina.

Richard Patrick had his first ever double when taking the maiden conditions race on Steve Hadley's six-year-old grey mare *Goodnight Charlie* and the veteran and novice riders' race on the Mickey Bowen-trained *Cygnet*.

Goodnight Charlie, a 10-1 shot, won by three lengths from *Pink Eyed Pedro* (Byron Moorcroft) and *Cygnet,* the odds-on favourite, made all the running to win by a distance from *Highly Unlikely* (Lorcan Williams).

Bradley Gibbs, who has been in cracking form of late, won the mixed open race on his girlfriend Claire Sherriff's *See U Again Son*, who took up the running six fences from home to win by three lengths from the legendary *Rosies Peacock* (John Mathias), who had to give a large amount of weight away owing to the conditions of the race.

I have never been a fan of mixed open races and would much prefer to see a men's open and a ladies' open race on the card.

Mixed open races rarely attract more than one or two females and I think they are a waste of time; and the fact that this race was over two-and-a-half miles instead of the usual three miles makes little sense to me – let me know what you think.

It was nice to see Sirrel Griffiths, the trainer of the 1990 Cheltenham Gold Cup winner *Norton's Coin*, and top trainer Peter Bowen and his two sons Mickey and Sean and the rest of his family, in attendance. Also, Bert Lavis and Barry Thomas and a number of other trainers and riders, too many to mention, that I have written about over the past 50 years.

The first pony race was won by Lily Llewellyn, aged 13, who rode her *Fairfield Run* to success over the fancied *Tealson Topic* and the second by Connor Brace, aged 14, who, riding *Dont Tell Dai,* beat *Captain Hurricane*, partnered by Jessica Llewellyn.

You can e-mail your news/views to brianlee4@virginmedia.com or phone 02920 736438.

BRIAN LEE

'Sorry' end to season for the Barry Chess Club

THE season is drawing to a very sorry end for the Barry Chess Club.

In the top division the Bosons and Camelots played their final games of the season. There was also a game for the Gambits in division 4 and the sixth round of the Welsh Premier League.

From these four encounters we could only manage a draw and three defeats.

The Bosons were perhaps surprisingly beaten by the Pontypridd Barbarians. Matthew Davies was our only winner and, with a draw from Steve Cunliffe, gave us 1.5 points from five boards. This means we finish the season on 51.5 points.

In most other divisions a score in excess of 50 points would almost certainly mean promotion. However in the top division, such is the difference in quality between the top and the bottom, 50 ponts is no more than a par score.

When all the matches have been played we expect to finish fourth but a long way from champions Cardiff Castles. This will be their 14th title since Barry were champions in 2001.

The Camelots travelled to Bridgend to take on the Bridgend Central Rockets. Both of these teams were already relegated before the match started.

Again we lost this match but with a better score of 2-3. Chris Green had a good victory and he was supported by Martin Ricketts and John Stephenson who both drew their games. The Camelots will hope to be more competitive next season in division 2.

The Gambits in the bottom division played host to Bridgend B. This was our closest encounter of the week and ended in a draw.

Ken Curry earned a quick victory and David Jones had a good quick draw. The match rested on the shoulders of Dave Mahoney who duly responded to defeat Andrew Worthington in one of the longest matches of the night to secure our draw. This was the first point for the Gambits this year!

This round of games included a first outing for the Bosons for Stephen Bonutto and I played my first game of the season for the Gambits.

While neither of us bothered the scorers, we have become the only players this season to play a match for all four of the Barry teams.

In the Welsh Premier League it has been a season to forget for the Vale. For the second match running we defaulted board six making it difficult to earn anything from the game.

Our opponents, Abergavenny, were last year's champions and are showing no sign of relinquishing their title. We were demolished 5-1 with only draws for Nigel Ralphs and James Thomas to show for our efforts.

Their is only one round of games remaining in which we will be playing the current bottom team, East Glamorgan Nomads. We need to at least halve the match to keep us off the bottom of the table.

The Barry Chess Club meets at 7.30pm each Monday at the West End Club. St Nicholas Road, Barry, CF62 6QY. The club is open to players of all standards; whether you are interested in playing competitive chess or just the occasional friendly games.

New players are very welcome to just turn up on the night but if you contact one of the club members through the website we can explain what is happening on the night you have in mind, and arrange for someone to greet you on your arrival.

For more details visit our website at http://barrychessclub.yolasite.com.

PHIL JONES

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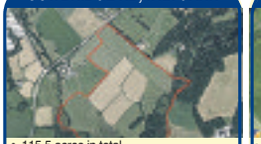

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Pen-Y-Bont Primary School won the Bridgend County Borough Council Road Safety quiz final.

Pen-y-Bont the road safety quiz kings

LEFT: Pencoed Primary School were the runners-up.

PUPILS from Pen-y-Bont Primary School have shown that their road safety knowledge is streets ahead of the rest by winning Bridgend County Borough Council's annual road safety quiz final at the Civic Offices in Bridgend.

Organised in partnership with South Wales Police, the final involved year-five pupils from 12 schools tackling questions on general road safety, road signs and an observation round.

Pen-y-Bont emerged victorious to take their first ever road safety quiz title, while Pencoed Primary School finished as runners-up.

Congratulating the pupils, Coun Huw David, Bridgend County Borough Council's deputy leader, said: "Well done to Pen-y-Bont and all of the other schools that competed in the final. Each of the twelve schools had already made it through a gruelling qualifying round so all of the children taking part in the final did really well to get that far.

"The annual quiz has been running for over 20 years now, and does wonders to raise awareness of road safety among the county borough's youngest residents.

"Each of the quiz participants has demonstrated an excellent knowledge of road safety and it is hoped that they share that knowledge by spreading the safety message far and wide among their friends and family."

Road safety awareness is also taught in Bridgend county borough's schools via 'kerbcraft' lessons in year two while year six pupils have the opportunity of cycling safety training.

The Pen-y-Bont Primary School team will now go forward to compete in the south Wales regional road safety quiz final in the summer.

Mayor joins local theatre group to wish them luck with new show

Porthcawl Mayor Coun David Newton Williams joins the PAODS cast. Photography by Keith E Morgan.

THE Mayor of Porthcawl, Coun David Newton Williams, recently joined the cast of PAODS (Porthcawl Amateur Operatic and Dramatic Society) at one of their rehearsals for their forthcoming performance at the Grand Pavilion Porthcawl of *The Addams Family*.

The Addams Family is a new musical comedy with music and lyrics by Andrew Lippa and a book by Marshall Brickman and Rick Elice, based upon the *Addams Family* characters created by Charles Addams in his cartoons, which depict a goulish American family with an affinity for all things macabre.

The musical is the first stage show based on the cartoon characters, rather than those depicted in the familiar TV series or films.

PAODS are presenting *The Addams Family* at the Grand Pavilion, Porthcawl, on Friday, April 29 at 7.30pm; Saturday, April 30 at 2.30pm and 7.30pm. Tickets are available from the PAODS ticket hotline on 01656 788148 or the Pavilion box office on 01656 815995.

Blacksmith's cheque to Air Ambulance

THE regular Wednesday quizzers at The Blacksmith's Arms in Llanmaes recently presented a cheque for £300 to Wales Air Ambulance.

Pictured receiving a cheque from Maggie Wilson is Catrin Hall on behalf of Wales Air Ambulance.

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Forty vintage tractors take to the roads in Vale to support the Ed Evans Foundation

FORTY vintage tractors supported a tractor run in aid of the Ed Evansb Foundation, starting at Frank Sutton's Yard, St Mary Hill and then touring around the Vale before arriving in convoy at Llandow race circuit.

The Aberthin Tractor Boys organised the event in conjunction with the Vale of Glamorgan Ploughing and Hedging Society.

A Dinner Dance will be held in Cardiff later this week when auctions will be taking place, including an original water colour painting depicting Ploughing Scenes donated by Tina Rose of Great House, Llanmaes.

JS

PHOTOGRAPHS by GLYN EVANS

OTHER PICTURES ARE AVAILABLE FROM THIS EVENT.

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Ed Evans' parents, John and Sue, who administer the Foundation, came along to the tractor run. (This photo supplied by JS).

New chief executive at Ty Hafan

Kate Phipps.

TŶ HAFAN'S recently appointed chief executive, Kate Phipps, has described how privileged she feels to be leading the charity as it enters a dynamic new phase.

With 15 years' senior management experience, Kate joins Tŷ Hafan from John Taylor Hospice in Birmingham where she led their successful journey out of NHS ownership to become a gold standard not-for-profit social enterprise.

Now in her third week at Tŷ Hafan, Kate said: "Everyone I have met, in whatever they do, has conveyed their passion and commitment to the children and families we support. Tŷ Hafan has a huge heart, a tremendous team spirit and it's a privilege to be appointed CEO."

She explained: "Tŷ Hafan enables life-limited children, young people and their families to embrace all that life has to offer in circumstances that are the most trying. At Tŷ Hafan, our job is to make that a little easier."

Signalling her passion for fundraising, Kate will be taking part in Tŷ Hafan's Barry Rainbow Run on May 7 alongside 1,200 other participants.

She said: "I am inspired by the support for Tŷ Hafan from the people of Wales and am look forward to joining some of our incredible supporters at the Rainbow Run."

Chairperson of Tŷ Hafan, Maria Timon Samra, said: "It is a busy time at Tŷ Hafan with increasing demand for our services and I am confident the charity will go from strength-to-strength under her leadership."

For more information, visit www.tyhafan.org.

Under-15s look forward to Cup final

Picture by JULIE HANCOCK.

ON Sunday, May 22, Pencoed under-15s will play against Bryncoch in the Ospreys Cup final at Llandarcy Academy of sport.

This extremely talented group of young men, captained by Ed Brierbach, have been successful over the last few years with only a handful of losses, playing an open and highly entertaining brand of rugby.

They now have the opportunity to compete in what is the top tier of the prestigious Ospreys Cup competition.

Their road to the final started in September with tremendous wins over Bryncethin (58-7), Cwmavon (43-7), Tondu (38-3) and Kenfig Hill (53-0) during the group stages.

The road to the final continued with a win against a well-drilled South Gower team in the quarter finals at Pencoed (20-0).

They were then drawn away in the semi-finals to face Resolven where they played probably their best game of rugby during this campaign, winning 45-22 against a very well-organised team.

The whole squad are now focused on building towards the conclusion of the competition and performing to their best ability as a team on finals day.

A large contingent of Pencoed supporters and other age groups will be going to Llandarcy to support the boys in what will hopefully be a great game of entertaining rugby by this special group of young men.

SC

Bridgend Sports under-10s end the season with tournament success!

A successful season for Bridgend Sports under-10s drew to a fitting close on Sunday when the young Sports side played their final game at the Pencoed Junior Tournament and lifted the Shield, while RTB Ebbw Vale lifted the cup.

The eight teams who took part included Llantwit Fardre, London Scottish, Nantyffyllon. Penallta, Risca, RTB Ebbw Vale and the host club Pencoed.

The teams were split up into two groups with the top two teams for each group progressing to a cup competition and the remainder progressing to the plate completion.

Bridgend Sports found themselves facing Nantyffyllon in the first game, a tough ask and they needed to be on top of their game to compete.

The Sports succumbed to their usual slow start and paid the price with dropped passes giving Nanty possession at key times. Nanty raced into a 2-0 lead before the Sports hit back with a try from Dylan Morgan.

They then began to press Nanty but spilled passes turned over try scoring opportunities on several occasions, only for Nantyffyllon to capitalise on each occasion with runs to the opposite end of the field to score two further tries.

The Sports were getting a little warmer in their second game against Llantwit Fardre.

Both teams fought the game out and it was clear to all watching, that it would take one side or the other to secure a breakaway to unlock the scoreboard.

That honour fell to Llantwit Fardre in the last move of the game as they ran out from deep and found space down the touchline to edge the game by one try to nil.

With pride at stake, it was no surprise that the Sports stirred themselves for the final game of the pool as they faced Penallta. The Blue and Whites entered the field in a more positive and determined frame of mind and, at last, where crucial passes were dropped in their previous two games, they began to stick and the tries followed with three from Joel Rogers and one from Callum Lewis, with Penallta claiming a try.

The Sports entered the plate semi-final, where they defeated London Scottish by six tries to one with tries from Cian John (2), Joel Rogers (2), Tom Chick and Morgan Edwards. With Penallta defeating the host club Pencoed in the other semi-final, the Sports faced a rematch with a much more lively Penallta team.

Having paid the price for a slow start in their earlier games, the Sports made no mistake in the final. Penallta started with possession but soon lost it, as the Sports' marauders closed space down quickly, forcing turnovers.

The Sports scored five unanswered tries through Joel Rogers, Tom Chick, Mackenzie Dent, Callum Lewis and a deserved last try for Harri Williams. It was appropriate that five different players scored the tries in the final game as it aptly illustrates the power of teamwork.

Penallta claimed a late consolation try with the last move of the game but it was Bridgend Sports who celebrated with a trophy in their final game of the season.

The young players have all made great strides forward and have developed new individual and team skills. Above all, the players enjoy playing the game of rugby in an environment where the philosophy is guided by key objectives that are based on inclusion, respect and encouragement for young people to play and remain in the game. All coaches, players and their families should be extremely proud of their efforts throughout the season.

A great deal of thanks must go to coaches Justin Davies, Craig Balmer and Matt Preddy who have given many hours of their time to ensure all children are given an opportunity to develop and partake in the game.

Tournament squad: Bailey Llewellyn Hopkins, Cadan Hayes,Callum Lewis, Cian John, Dewi Worrall, Dylan Morgan, Harri Williams, Iestyn John, Ieuan Pilliner, Joel Rogers, Lowri Long, Mackenzie Dent, Mason Balmer, Matthew Gates, Morgan Edwards, Rhys Wilson, Tom Chick, Thomas Coles and Tyler Burton.

Attention now turns to the end of season presentation which takes place on May 21.

New players are always welcome at the club, please contact via our website http://bridgendsportsclub.rfc.wales or via our Twitter feed @SportsMiniRugby.

Following a short break, some exciting training sessions are planned for the summer months before the start of next season, as the young players take another big step in their development.

SP

Summer rugby Sevens event in Bryntirion

BRIDGEND Communities First is looking for teams to take part in their free-of-charge seven-a-side touch rugby championship (16-plus) at Pen-y-Bont Football Club in Bryntirion every Wednesday, from July 20 to August 10, 5pm–7pm.

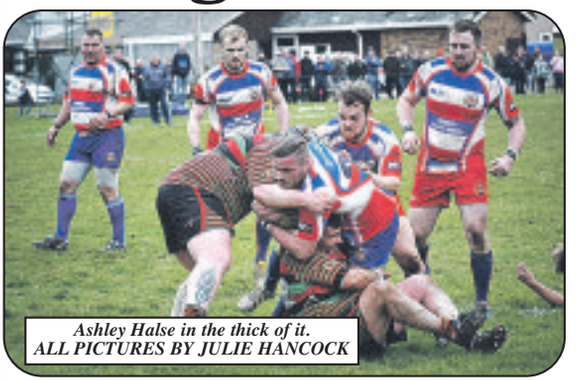
A spokeswoman said: "Suitable for males and females, touch rugby is non contact with no scrums or line outs, with tackling not allowed.

"Free to all those living in Bridgend Communities First postcode areas, each game will be followed by a free buffet and prize draw.

"Get fit and have fun and get your team together to see if you can win the trophy for the winning team!"

Register a team (maximum squad of 10) by Thursday, June 30 by calling Graham on 01656 815135 or 07815 525016. Bridgend Communities First is funded by Welsh Government.

Pencoed RFC slip to two straight losses



Ashley Halse in the thick of it.
ALL PICTURES BY JULIE HANCOCK

A large crowd witnessed this entertaining Division 1 West Central midweek match at the Old Parish ground between Pencoed RFC and Maesteg.

Pencoed outside half Marc Davies gave his side the lead in the opening moments with a penalty goal, and Pencoed soon increased their lead. A driving run from back row forward Rhys Pope deep in the home 22 saw Pope find his skipper Kieron Moore with a fine offload and the tighthead prop forward crossed wide out; Davies converted.

A try and a penalty goal from home left wing Ed Howley brought matters to 8-10.

Soon after Pencoed destroyed a home scrummage and the Pencoed front row of Moore, hooker James Tredray and Christian Powell proceeded to drive the Old Parish off their own ball at a series of scrums.

However approaching the interval, home full back Jon Phillips showing blistering pace countered from 60 metres in an outside arc to score with a stunning solo effort; Howley converted and Maesteg led 15-10 at the interval, Pencoed arguably having enjoyed their best opening half for some considerable time.

The Old Parish increased their lead early in the second half with a try from No8 Scott Hicks.

Try scorer Aaron Leyshon.

Pencoed full back Rhys Thomas then gave his side field position with a 60 metre clearance into the home 22, and driving play from the ensuing lineout from Dan Watkins, Tredray and Dano Howells saw Davies use possession well to send wing David Young over wide out, Davies adding a fine conversion from the touchline to reduce the home lead to 20-17.

Howley then responded with a penalty goal before the home backs, who had looked threatening throughout, put the match beyond Pencoed with three tries in a purple patch, centre Sam Griffiths, scrum half Keiron John, and right wing Lewis Morgan crossing the whitewash.

To their credit Pencoed hit back in the final minutes, Watkins breaking into the home 22 before feeding fellow youth player Liam Parrish, who stepped the last defender to score.

Pencoed suffered their second defeat in four days in controversial circumstances at Ystalyfera.

Finding themselves 17-3 down shortly after the interval, Pencoed hit back with two tries from youth wing Sam Rowland Jones, the second a 70 metre effort taking a well-judged crossfield kick from outside half Marc Davies before bursting clear to score a fine try.

Then came a key moment in the match, the Davies conversion flagged over before the match official ruled it out, the home scoreboard initially showing 17-17, obviously having deemed the conversion successful!

The 'Fera then got a try to increase their lead to 22-15 before driving play from Rhys Pope and Dan Watkins took play deep into the home 22 and, following a close up scrummage, Pencoed scrum half Rhys Clark fed blindside wing Aeron Leyshon, the youth wing needing no second invitation to cross in the corner, and a final scoreline of 22-20.

Pencoed will once again reflect on a match which could have been won.

TR

RHYS SLIPS AFTER POOR THIRD ROUND

A poor third round saw Bridgend golfer Rhys Davies slip out of contention in the Shenzhen International Tournament in China.

The 30-year-old opened with two sub-par rounds of 70 and 71, but then a third round 78 saw him slip down the field.

A fourth round 71 saw him finish joint 58th on a two-over-par total of 290, winning €6,927.

The tournament was extended into a fifth day because of bad weather and light.

Ranked 350th in the world, Edinburgh-born Davies is attached to the Royal Porthcawl Golf Club.

The former East Tennessee State University student has won five European tournaments since turning professional in 2007 and won over €2.5 million in prize money.

His biggest cheque - for €233,960 - came when he finished second to Graeme McDowell in the 2010 Wales Open, and his earnings that year topped €1 million.

MP

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Family Notices

COSLETT
Ann Janet

Peacefully at Milsom House Nursing Home on April 18, Ann Janet, formerly of Gileston Road, St Athan, beloved sister of Shirley and brother-in-law Ron, loved by all the family.

Resting at the Private Funeral Home of W James & Sons, Fonmon. Funeral Thursday May 5, service 10.30am at St Athan Church followed by cremation at Coychurch Crematorium, Bridgend at 12 noon. No flowers by request, donations in lieu, if desired, to Milsom House c/o J James, 11 Fonmon Road, Rhoose, Vale of Glamorgan, CF62 3DZ.

COBOURNE
David

Sadly David died on Thursday, 21 April 2016 at the Princess of Wales Hospital, Bridgend.

He had not been in the best of health for some time. Loved by Mary, his wife, children, grandchild, great grandchildren and family.

The funeral will be held at 2.45pm on Thursday, 5 May at Coychurch Crematorium, Bridgend. Family and close friends only please. Donations if you wish to Cowbridge Physic Garden Trust Limited. (www.cowbridgephysicgarden.org.uk).

HAYLES
Keith James

It is with great sadness that Dean and David announce the death of Keith, who passed away suddenly at home on the April 22.

Funeral details to follow, any enquiries to Lyndsay Ellis on 01446 407962.

THOMAS
Patricia Edwina

Peacefully on Friday, April 15 at home. Much loved mother, grandmother and great grandmother.

Sadly missed by all family and friends.

Funeral service at St, Bridget's Church, St. Brides Major on Friday, May 6 at 2pm, followed by interment. Family flowers only, donations in lieu can be sent to the British Heart Foundation.

Enquiries to JR & MF David - 01656 880308.

HATHERALL
Herbert Charles

Passed peacefully away at the Princess of Wales hospital. Beloved husband of Ann, loving brother-in-law of Kath, John, Colin and Hilary, loving Uncle to his nieces in Australia and their families.

The funeral will be held at Holy Cross Church at 1pm, May 3, followed by interment at Llanblethian Church. Flowers may be sent to Thomas Bros, Greengate, Ewenny Road, St. Brides Major.

HOLT
Joan Mary

Peacefully on April 21 at UHW, Cardiff, after a short illness, Joan, aged 94 years, of Rhoose. Dearly loved mother and grandmother.

Resting at the Private Funeral Home of W James & Sons, Fonmon. Funeral Friday, May 6, service 12.45pm at St Peters Church, Rhoose, followed by cremation at Cardiff and Glamorgan Crematorium, Barry at 2pm.

Family flowers only may be sent to the funeral home, donations in lieu, if desired, may be sent to Alzheimers Disease Society c/o J James, 11 Fonmon Road, Rhoose, Vale of Glamorgan, CF62 3DZ.

GRIFFITHS
James Howell

Peacefully on Tuesday, 19 April at Penybont Court, Ewenny. James Howell Griffiths, loving husband to Mair, father of Sara, Susan, Charlotte and Hywel. Grandfather of Keirina, Siobhan, Rhys, Rhodri, Sian, Rachel, Anna, Ben and respected father-in-law of Ian, Nigel, Graham and Christa.

Resting at W.A.Brown & Son, Llantwit Major, until the funeral in St.Illtud's Church on Friday, 6 May at 12 noon followed by cremation at Coychurch Crematorium at 1.15pm.

Family flowers only, but donations, if desired may be sent to one of the following charities - ABF Soldiers Charity, Ty Hafan Children's Hospice or Dementia U.K. c/o the Funeral Home (Cheques only).

DUFFIELD
Jim

Oh so very loved by his wife Tricia, his daughters Deborah and Nicola and our family and friends.

Grateful thanks to Dr Lee Roberts-Jones and staff at Cowbridge and Vale Medical Practice for their kindness and support.

Funeral service to be held at St Senwyr's Church, Llansannor, CF71 7RX on Wednesday, May 4th at 2.30pm. No flowers by request. Donations if desired may be made to Heart Research Wales or Velindre Fundraising, Velindre Cancer Centre, Cardiff, CF14 2TL.

All enquires to Green Willow Funerals, 21a Station Road, Dinas Powys, CF64 4DE. Tel (029) 2051 4627.

GEORGE
Mary

Peacefully on April 19 at Princess of Wales hospital, much loved wife of the late Gren, beloved mam of Gareth and Sharon, devoted nan to Rhodri, Marc, Emma and the late Matthew.

Cremation on Friday, May 6, at 12pm, at Bridgend Crematorium. Family flowers only, donations, if desired, to Stroke association. Enquiries to Thomas Bros. 01446 775681.

TOTTLE
Irene Evelyn
(1937 - 2016)

Irene passed away on Friday, 22 April 2016.

The funeral is on Friday, 6 May in Coychurch Crematorium at 11.30am, afterwards refreshments will be provided at The Mountain Hare in Brynna.

If you would like to bring flowers that is up to you, but Irene would prefer a donation to Cancer Research. Dress code, what you think Irene would have approved of.

HOPKINS
David

Sadly passed away on April 13 at the University Hospital of Wales, David, aged 84 years, of Barry. Dad to Sheila, Sue, Clive, Barry and Neil.

He will be greatly missed by his family and friends.

Resting at A.G.Adams & Son, Gladstone Road, Barry until the service at the Cardiff & Glamorgan Crematorium, Barry on Wednesday, May 4, at 2pm. Family flowers only please, donations, if wished, may be forwarded to the funeral director for the British Heart Foundation.

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Public Notices

LICENSING ACT 2003

To whom it may concern: We, Beyond the Border Storytelling Festival Ltd, do hereby give notice that we have applied to the Licensing Authority at the Vale of Glamorgan Council for a new Premises License at **Edwards Field, Atlantic College Estate, St Donats Castle, Vale of Glamorgan, CF61 1WF.**

The application is to:
• Provide regulated entertainment in the form of live music, recorded music, performances of dance, plays and films 1000 - 0100
• Late Night Refreshment 1000 - 0100 • Supply alcohol 1000 - 0100
• Opening Hours 0930 - 0100. From 30th June 2016 to the 4th July 2016.

Any persons wishing to make representations to this application may do so in writing to the Licensing Department, Vale of Glamorgan Council Civic Offices, Holton Road, Barry, CF63 4RU, not later than 28 Days after the date of this Notice. A copy of the application can be viewed at the civic offices during normal office hours.

It is an offence knowingly or recklessly to make a false statement in connection with this application, the maximum fine on summary conviction being £5,000.

Dated 22nd April 2016.

Charity No. 1144275

Visit The GEM online for the latest stories and breaking news...

LICENSING ACT 2003

I, **Ram Singh** of **Ogmore Restaurant & Bar, High St, Ogmore Vale Bridgend, CF32 7AF** Hereby give notice I have applied under S17 Licensing and in accordance with S12 Licensing Act 2003 for a Premises Licence for the above mentioned premises, namely **For the Sale and Supply of Alcohol** - Mon-Sun 10:00 - 01:00; **Regulated Entertainment, namely Live Music, Recorded Music, Performances of dance, Anything of a similar description** Mon-Sun 010:00 - 01:00; **Entertainment Facilities, namely Making music, Dancing, Entertainment of a similar description** Mon-Sun 10:00 - 01:00; **For Late Night Refreshment** Mon-Sun 23:00 - 01:00.

Any person wishing to make a representation regarding the application must do so in writing to, Bridgend County Borough Council,Civic Offices, Angel Street, Bridgend, CF31 4WB Tel: 01656 643643. Text Relay:18001 01656 643643. Fax: 01656 668126

Email: talktous@bridgend.gov.uk

Sign Video BSL Live not later than 13th May 2016 A copy of the application may be inspected during normal business hours It is an offence, liable on conviction to a fine up to level 5 on the standard scale, under section 158 of the licensing act 2003 to make a false statement in or in connection with this application.

PMB LICENSING AUTHORISED AGENTS

DATED 15th April 2016

Birthdays

Diego Patut (Papi)

Wishing you a very happy 40th Birthday on April 29

so much, Victoria Mercedes xxx

Have a safe flight, see you next week!

Happy 1st Birthday Delilah Grace on April 27

Lots of love from Mummy & Daddy xxx

Situations Vacant

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Lost

MISSING CAT

Missing since 19th April from the Castle Street/Salisbury Road area of Barry.

She is a very nervous cat, has a small head, and is microchipped. We all miss her, her brother is grieving for her.

Thank you for looking, if seen call 07799 042481

Family Notices

DANDO
Margaret Marie 'Glesni'

Peacefully on the 13th April 2016 at Brocastle Manor Care Home, aged 94 years. Much loved mum to Glesni and John, grandmother and great grandmother.

Resting at Rosemount Funeral Home. Funeral service in Coychurch Crematorium on 3rd May 2016 at 1.45pm. No flowers by request. Donations if desired to Glesni Jones for the purchase of equipment for Brocastle home.

All further enquiries to Rosemount Funeral Home, 19 Coychurch Road, Bridgend, CF31 3AP. Tel: 01656 653156.

HOWES
Deirdre (Delia)

Peacefully on April 20 at Llandough Hospital - Delia, devoted wife of the late John. Much loved mum of Jonathan, Susan and Margaret. Special mother-in-law to David and Tammy. Cherished nan to all her grandchildren and great grandchildren.

She will be greatly missed by all who knew and loved her.

Resting at the Vale Funeral Service, 181 Court Road, Barry until her service at St Helens RC Church, Barry on Friday, May 6 at 1pm, followed by interment at Barry Cemetery.

"Reunited with John"

Flowers may be sent to the funeral home.

Articles & Cars for Sale

ADVERTISE HERE £12 inc. VAT - box for 2 weeks. To take advantage of this offer simply either send in your description along with a cheque for the appropriate amount made payable to 'The Glamorgan GEM' at The GEM, Graig House, 53 Eastgate, Cowbridge CF71 7EL or telephone us with your wording by 12 noon Tuesday. All major credit cards accepted. Tel 01446 774484. Advert must contain a residential land line telephone number. You may alter your advert as items are sold. **Sorry no refunds are given.**

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Planning

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Planning (Listed Buildings and Conservation Areas) Act, 1990
Town and Country Planning (Development Management Procedure) (Wales) Order 2012

Development that may affect a Conservation Area/ Datblygu a allai effeithio ar Ardal Gadwraeth

Application No:/ Rhif y cais: 2016/00142/FUL
Proposal:/Cynnig: Proposed 2 New Build Houses
Location:/Lleoliad: Land adjacent to the Old Dairy Site, Durell Street, Llantwit Major
Conservation Area:/ Ardal Gadwraeth Llantwit Major

Application No:/ Rhif y cais: 2016/00258/FUL
Proposal:/Cynnig: Proposed 3 no. of detached dwellings
Location:/Lleoliad: Court Farm, Bonvilston
Conservation Area:/Ardal Gadwraeth Bonvilston

Application No:/ Rhif y cais: 2016/00314/FUL
Proposal:/Cynnig: Replacement windows and alteration works
Location:/Lleoliad: Flat 2, Rectory Court, Rectory Road, Penarth
Conservation Area:/ Ardal Gadwraeth Penarth

Application No:/ Rhif y cais: 2016/00343/FUL
Proposal:/Cynnig: Erection of a side dormer, replacement of front dormer and replacement of front boundary supporting wall after partial collapse
Location:/Lleoliad: Ty Twyn, Mill Road, Dinas Powys
Conservation Area:/ Ardal Gadwraeth Dinas Powys

Application No:/ Rhif y cais: 2016/00355/FUL
Proposal:/Cynnig: Construction of nursing home-revised design and car parking
Location:/Lleoliad: Crystal Springs, Coldbrook Road East, Barry
Conservation Area:/ Ardal Gadwraeth Affecting the Cadoxton Conservation Area

Listed Building Consent/ Caniatâd Adeilad Rhestredig

Application No:/ Rhif y cais: 2016/00171/LBC
Proposal:/Cynnig: Proposed alterations to existing house and outbuildings
Location:/Lleoliad: Keeperes Cottage, Porthkerry Road, Rhoose
Listed Building:/ Adeilad Rhestredig Grade II

Affecting setting of a Listed Building/ Cais (au) sy'n effeithio ar leoliad Adeilad Rhestredig

Application No:/ Rhif y cais: 2016/00170/FUL
Proposal:/Cynnig: Proposed alterations to existing house and outbuildings
Location:/Lleoliad: Keeperes Cottage, Porthkerry Road, Rhoose
Listed Building:/ Adeilad Rhestredig Affecting Keeperes Cottage, Grade II

Application No:/ Rhif y cais: 2016/00355/FUL
Proposal:/Cynnig: Construction of nursing home-revised design and car parking
Location:/Lleoliad: Crystal Springs, Coldbrook Road East, Barry
Listed Building:/ Adeilad Rhestredig Affecting No. 1 Coldbrook Road East (The Old Schoolhouse), St. Cadocs Church, Cadoxton, Grade II* and Cross in Churchyard of St. Cadocs Church, Grade II

Application No:/ Rhif y cais: 2016/00369/OUT
Proposal:/Cynnig: Demolition of part demolished, fire damaged and derelict former C1 residential buildings. Construction of 15 no. link dwellings (40% affordable), and the conversion of the existing chapel into a dwelling and the retention/extension of the caretaker's bungalow
Location:/Lleoliad: St. Athan Boys Village, St. Athan
Listed Building: /Adeilad Rhestredig Affecting the memorial at St. Athan Boys Village, Grade II

Application(s) of General Interest / Ceisiadau o Ddiddordeb Cyffredinol

Application No:/ Rhif y cais: 2016/00115/OUT
Proposal:/Cynnig: Ground plus 4 storey new build proposal to provide 44 affordable housing units
Location:/Lleoliad: Land at Cogan Hill, Penarth

Application No:/ Rhif y cais: 2016/00355/FUL
Proposal:/Cynnig: Construction of nursing home-revised design and car parking
Location:/Lleoliad: Crystal Springs, Coldbrook Road East, Barry

Application No:/ Rhif y cais: 2016/00369/OUT
Proposal:/Cynnig: Demolition of part demolished, fire damaged and derelict former C1 residential buildings. Construction of 15 no. link dwellings (40% affordable), and the conversion of the existing chapel into a dwelling and the retention/extension of the caretaker's bungalow
Location:/Lleoliad: St. Athan Boys Village, St. Athan

May affect a Public Right of Way/ Gall effeithio ar Hawl Tramwy Cyhoeddus

Application No:/ Rhif y cais: 2016/00386/FUL
Proposal:/Cynnig: Construction of detached four bedroom dwelling house with integral double garage, plus associated driveway
Location:/Lleoliad: Dimlands Road, St. Donats

Departure from Development Plan/ Gwyro o'r Cynllun Datblygu

Application No:/ Rhif y cais: 2016/00369/OUT
Proposal:/Cynnig: Demolition of part demolished, fire damaged and derelict former C1 residential buildings. Construction of 15 no. link dwellings (40% affordable), and the conversion of the existing chapel into a dwelling and the retention/extension of the caretaker's bungalow
Location:/Lleoliad: St. Athan Boys Village, St. Athan

Details may be inspected for 21 days at the address given below, or via **http://vogonline.planning-register.co.uk/**

Gall manylion eu harchwilio am 21 diwrnod yn y cyfeiriad a roddir isod, neu drwy **http://vogonline.planning-register.co.uk/**

Dated / Dyddiedig: 28 April, 2016

M. Goldsworthy
Operational Manager Development & Building Control,
Vale of Glamorgan Council, Dock Office, Barry. CF63 4RT

Student plans to return home to tackle Ebola

A STUDENT who arrived in the UK from Sierra Leone in the midst of the 2014 Ebola outbreak has not only completed his International Baccalaureate (IB) studies, but been awarded scholarship offers to US universities and a grant to return home to combat Ebola stigmatisation.

Abu Bakarr (22), hails from Northern Sierra Leone and has spent the last year and half studying at UWC Atlantic College, the international residential sixth form college based in St Donat's.

At UWC Atlantic College, there are more than 350 students from over 90 countries. Upon his arrival, he spoke only broken English picked up in high school, having spoken Creole at home his entire life.

After graduating from high school in Sierra Leone in 2012, Abu joined Voluntary Service Overseas (VSO), and was subsequently encouraged to apply for a place at Atlantic College, who have close links with the organisation.

Today, Abu is preparing to graduate from the IB Certificate Programme in the summer. Having worked closely with the college's English department and University admissions team, he is weighing up scholarship offers from Wartburg College in Iowa, Methodist University in North Carolina and Westminster College in Missouri to study business.

Abu's time in Wales has had a profound effect of his life today, but he almost missed the opportunity to start at the UWC Atlantic College altogether.

Visa restrictions around the 2014 Ebola outbreak in West Africa meant he could only arrive a month into the academic year.

As an UWC Atlantic College student, Abu's time was split equally between his IB studies and co-curricular activities. These activities are grouped into one of four faculties – environmental, global, social justice and outdoor.

Abu chose to join the social justice faculty, which sees students working within their local communities to aid refugees, the elderly, children from disadvantaged home backgrounds, and children and adults with mental and physical disabilities.

Abu believes that his passion for volunteering has made his co-curricular work to be one of the most rewarding aspects of his time at UWC Atlantic College.

Recently, he was awarded the college's GoMAD grant – a £1,000 donation that gives students an opportunity to make a real-world difference and put into practice the ideals of UWC. Abu will use the grant to return to Sierra Leone in July, immediately after his final IB exams to help combat Ebola stigmatisation.

Abu Bakarr at UWC Atlantic College.

West African children who have lost one or both of their parents to Ebola are often bullied by peers and cast aside by elders. Abu intends to combat this mentality by working with local media and stakeholders to change the way these children are viewed and treated.

He will fly to the US to start college immediately after this summer work, but his long term plan is to return to his homeland and continue his aid work.

He said: "After university I will go back home and work to bring about a change in the society. I'm passionate about doing something meaningful – that's my dream and what I am praying for. I am bit nervous about starting university so far from home, but I am sure my college experience will see me through the difficulties."

John Walmsley, principal at UWC Atlantic College, said: "Abu embodies the true nature of what we at UWC Atlantic College seek to inspire. We believe that education can be a true force for peace in our world, and we seek to instil this in each of our students.

"As a VSO scholar, who intends to return home to help those in real need, Abu is a true example of this ethos in action. It is even more rewarding to know that the GoMad grant that will finance his aid work in Sierra Leone was itself created funded by UWC Atlantic College alumna."

The GoMAD project was first set up in 2001 by former UWC Atlantic College student Jill Longson (class of 81) and Colin Habgood. This year marks the first year that applications were expanded from UWC Atlantic College students to pupils from all 15 UWC Colleges around the world.

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THE VALE FOOTBALL LEAGUE ROUND-UP

CARDIFF Airport left rivals St Athan shocked and stunned as they were victorious in the big Premier Division title clash with a resounding 5-0 thumping away win.

The victory moves Airport into second place ,level on points with new league leaders Wenvoe who have played a game more.

Wenvoe secured a 4-2 win over Cowbridge Town to move top on goal difference but Cardiff Airport and St Athan each have a game in hand.

Airport can clinch a second successive Premier Division title by winning their final two games of the season, both against Dinas Powys Athletic, this week.

Elsewhere in the Premier Division SP Construction won the battle of the bottom two 3-2 against Island Marine - the result sees SP leapfrog Penarth Town into ninth place.

The ASRS Cup semi-finals were finally played this past weekend.

Dinas Powys Athletic booked their place in the final with an emphatic 4-0 victory over Barry Athletic in somewhat of an upset.

They will face Penarth Town, who defeated the out of form AFC Rhoose 2-1 to set up the Jenner Park historic ASRS Cup showpiece final.

In Division One leaders Cogan Coronation inched closer to the title with a 6-2 win against AFC Rhoose B; Sully won 5-1 against Cardiff Airport B to stay two points behind but having played two games more.

Vale United dropped valuable points in their promotion push as they were held 1-1 by Cadoxton Barry.

Barry Belgrade's poor run of results continued as they were thrashed 4-0 by FC Pumas, making it four defeats in a row in all competitions. Bottom side BV were edged out 3-2 by Cadoxton Athletic.

In Division Two the title race looks to be going to the wire.

Leaders Barry Athletic B notched a 5-1 win over FC Pumas B to stay five points ahead of Dockers, who recorded a 2-1 victory over Penarth Town B.

Dockers, however, have two games in hand. Third place Cadoxton Imps put daylight between them and Knap by routing them 7-1, although again Knap have two games in hand.

Finally, Island Marine B won 4-2 over bottom side Barry Albion.

This weekend we will know the destination of the Premier Division title ahead of the Barry Cup final on Sunday - Cardiff Airport will face Wenvoe in what promises to be a classic at Jenner Park.

HD

Duo represent Wales in Cup competition

Aiden Lewis and Alex Long

AIDEN Lewis and Alex Long are going to represent Wales in the UEFA Regions Cup in San Marino.

The pair, along with their coach Jimmy Blackie, who play for Sully Sports FC, have been representing the South Wales Football Association in a knockout tournament against west Wales with the winners going on to play the winners of a similar play-off in north Wales.

The winners of that game were north east Wales, and the final took place at Newtown FC on Saturday, April 23.

South Wales took control of the game and ran out comfortable winners, 3-0, with Aiden and Alex playing influential roles in midfield and attack. All three will now go on to San Marino to represent Wales against the hosts, Greece and Kazakhstan in June.

RL

Centurions get the season under way

AFTER missing last week's opening pre-season friendly matches due to the weather, Sully Centurions finally got the 2016 season underway with a home victory over Cregiau.

The visitors won the toss and decided to bowl, with Sully's captain for the day, Santosh Singh, hitting a fine 78, which included 11 boundaries and two sixes.

Tarv Dhanjal hit a nice 35 before Bharat carved out a century, including 9 fours and 4 sixes that put Centurions in the driving seat. The total of 285 was reached for the loss of six wickets.

In response, Creigiau reached 134 for the loss of three wickets in the 30th over, with openers Taylor and Callum both hitting half centuries.

Unfortunately for the visitors, the Centurions' bowlers managed to put a stranglehold on the Creigiau batsmen and at the end of the 40 overs, and Creigiau only managed 196 for 4. The wickets were shared between the Centurions bowlers.

Many thanks to Sully Marine for sponsoring the match balls.

Centurions are due to play Newbridge this week, with the following week being the start of the league season.

CC

The Barry and District Ladies Skittle League results round-up

LATEST results for the Barry and District Ladies Skittle League for April 11:

First division: SV Gals (J Richards 33) 316, Colcot Ladies (S Howcraft 30) 287; Special Angels (L Peace 28) 265, Breakaways (C Parfitt 27) 251; Space Finders (E Worthy 32) 310, Barry Stars (W Phillips 36) 349; Bakers Dozen (M Western 30) 282, Family and Friends (G Loveless 30) 285; Cigar Ladies (Aimee McCarthy, L Webb 28) 285, Castle Bandits (B Evans, C Kerslake, J Grant 27) 284; Allsorts (L Thomas 29) 270, Bobby's Girls (G Togood, A Seldon, S Seldon 27) 259.

Second division: Pila Palas (H Palfrey 32) 325, Witchill Widows (L Spyrow, T Tozer 29) 222; Cad Con Fillies (S Chilcott 25) 236, S V Lights (M Siexas 250 233; Castaways (N Shaw 33) 246, Witchill Weebies (C Curran, S Lou 26) 209; Vixens (D Marks, A Maciver 28) 287, Clickies (K Watts 32) 242; Little Devils (P Weston 25) 233, Red Admiral (B Perry 24) 248; Rhoose Starlights (A White, L Fields 25) 258, After Eights (P Bryant 27) 253; Merry Makers (C Edwards 24) 212, Rhoose Ravers (M Griffiths 23) 209.

Third division: Rugby Triers (S Cogbill 29) 264, Airways Angels (E lewis, A Sales, M Carpenter 22) 234; Persuaders (L Organ 28) 223, Twilights (S Hayson, S Boulton 22) 209; Westenders (S Woodfield, J Canavan 26) 238, Dolly Mixtures (L Marsh 27) 237; La Belles (B Day, E Cordy 345) 340, Roller Coasters (G Giles, S Spry 34) 328; Fallen Angels (K McInery 31) 282, Friends and Neighbours (E Western 29) 248; SV Ladies (C Griffiths 31) 264, Etcetera (P Riddick 29) 267.

Fourth division: Guardian Angels (I Harris 24) 219; Aristocats (M Moore 21) 202; Challengers (M Griffiths 31) 319; Nite Outers (L Newman 33) 262; Witchill Wanderers (J Morrissey 33) 280, Hell Raisers (L Waters 33) 332; Rebels (L Spurr 27) 216, Witches (A Tyler 24) 223; Uptown Girls (J Cosslett 24) 249, Optimists (H Ball, K Orchard, J Holland 20) 213; Off The Rails (G Griffiths 28) 250, Living On A Spare (V Mitchell, S Pring 24) 237; Liberals (S Andrews 25) 199, Socialites (I Nolan, P Starr 23) 207.

The next meeting at the Cadoxton Conservative Club will be the secretary's meeting on May 9.

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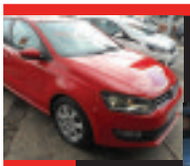

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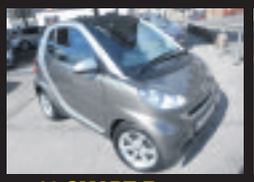

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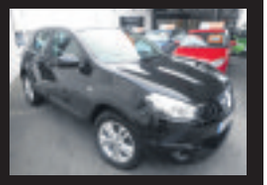

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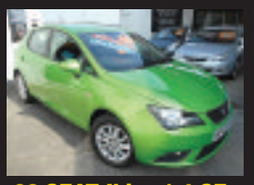

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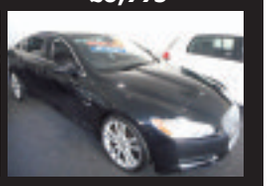

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Noelle Bond, Kay Dyer, Judith Owen and Mick Green, the team winners of Barrivale's 29th birthday meeting.

THE BARRIVALE BRIDGE RESULTS

LATEST results from Barrivale Bridge Club for April 19:

1st Mick Green & Mike Close 63.49%; 2nd Celia & Huw Thomas 53.97%; 3rd Dave Thomas & Tom Kendrick 51.59%.

Dave Thomas and Tom Kendrick won on handicap.

Also congratulations to Alan Jones (pictured) as the Annual Handicap winner.

Additional congratulations go to Noelle Bond, Kay Dyer, Judith Owen and Mick Green as the team winners of Barrivale's 29th birthday meeting. (also pictured).

New members are always welcome at Barrivale. A partner may be arranged if required.

If you would like to join us ring 01446 418380 or 01446 733425 or 01446 735592 call at the Pioneer Hall, Beryl Road, Barry on Tuesdays at 7pm.

Alternatively players, inexperienced or new, may attend on Fridays at 10am at the same address.

DR

Alan Jones as the Annual Handicap winner.

Tae Kwon Do stars impress

FOLLOWING on from her double gold success at the Ultimate 1-1 in January, athlete Ruth May and coach Master Paul Jones headed to the Yorkshire 1-1 in Bradford in early February.

Ruth's first match was up against a heavier girl, who Ruth had fought and defeated two years ago in a close final. Ruth dominated from the very start, scoring two body strong shots within the first five seconds.

With the score at 5-0 at the end of the first round, Paul instructed Ruth to practice some new techniques during the next two rounds, including some headshots which very narrowly missed and several powerful back kicks, registering just below the required threshold but clearly hurting her opponent.

Ruth was comfortably awarded gold having not conceded a single point, with the final score at 9-0.

Ruth's second match up was against GB player Leah Moorby, who is a world medallist and double European medallist.

A slight confusion with matches being moved meant that Ruth found herself being called to ringside before she had even kitted up, let alone warmed up.

Having been unbeaten in the UK for nearly four years, Moorby was confident in attack and took advantage of Ruth's lack of a warm up and led comfortably at the end of the first round.

During the second round, Ruth began to work tactically around Moorby's fast front leg attack and appeared to land a three point axe kick to the back of Moorby's headguard.

However, the judges ruled that Moorby had instead landed at reverse headshot at the time of Ruth's attack, giving her the points needed to win.

In March, both Ruth and team mate Bethany Burt, who claimed gold and silver at the Ultimate 1-1, competed at the Ultimate Championships in Barnsley.

Bethany was the first match on in her first junior open at a higher weight, having moved up from the Cadet category.

A tough draw found her up against a GB junior who had competed at both the Cadet European and World Championships last year.

A tight opening round saw Bethany's opponent lead 2-0, scoring two straightforward body shots. During the second round, both girls appeared to connect to the head simultaneously; however it was ruled that only Bethany's opponent had connected and Beth found herself 5-0 down.

Determined to fight back, Bethany managed to score a three point headshot to bring the score to 5-3 and followed it up with another very close face kick, narrowly missing.

Unfortunately, having been unwell the week prior to the championships, Bethany found herself fatiguing towards the end of the third round and eventually bowed out to the GB girl in the quarter finals.

Ruth made it to the final where she faced Leah Moorby once again. In a very much more relaxed and controlled fight, Ruth pressured Moorby with a variety of back kicks, head kicks and body shots, in particular a four point reverse headshot which very narrowly missed and a strong side kick which knocked her opponent off her feet.

However, experience shone through in a fight that was very tightly contested for all three rounds, despite the final result which left Ruth with silver after a very much improved performance against a world class player.

PJ

Ruth May, Bethany Burt and Master Paul Jones.

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Kenfig Hill RFC earn vital victory

ABOVE: Tom Briggs hands off a tackle, while BELOW: Matthew Tame receives touchline encouragement from Gareth Russell! PICTURES BY PETER GILLING.

THE Mules and Maesteg Quins went into the match looking for much sought after points as they both try to avoid relegation into Division 2.

The Quins played the first half with a strong wind at their back and dominated the first 40 minutes, scoring four unanswered tries in the process.

The Quins eight showed more aggression and strength at the breakdown than their younger counterparts with the Mules only getting into their opponents' 22 on a few occasions.

Any chances the Mules had of crossing the whitewash were thwarted by the Quins strong defence and poor decision making by the Mules in broken play. The Quins led 24-0 at half-time.

The second half was a totally different affair with, at last, the Mules' backline choosing the right options in attack and slowly they clawed their way back into the game.

Also the Mules' discipline was faultless in the second half with barely a penalty conceded. The Maesteg eight started to tire as the game continued to be played at a fast pace.

Tries for Kenfig Hill were scored by dogged flanker Scott Waller and a brace from winger Ben Clarke. Nicky Giles added the conversions which brought the score to 24 -21 with five minutes to play.

The Mules continued to move the ball at every occasion and after another flowing passage of play, replacement prop Matthew Tame was on hand to run in unopposed from 20 metres to put the Mules into the lead for the first time in the match.

The conversion was missed but the Mules controlled the game for the final few minutes to run out winners, 26-24.

Factors that aided the win were a strong bench with Connor O'Connell, Jon Thomas and Matthew Tame all catching the eye, and a great spirit from the entire squad.

The win means that Kenfig Hill need one more point from their remaining two matches to guarantee another season in Division 1 West Central with five teams still in the relegation fight.

DD

BRIDGEND SPORTS MAKE DONATION TO MARIE CURIE

BRIDGEND Sports minis and juniors are pleased to donate £222 to the Marie Curie charity.

The thriving rugby team recently had a very successful rugby tour to west Wales, and raised the money for the charity through the sale of their tour t-shirts.

Over 250 t-shirts were sold to both children and parents, and they were worn with pride during the recent tour.

Bridgend Sports RFC mini and junior section is one of the fastest growing junior rugby clubs in south Wales. The section was established in 2007 with the aim of providing quality rugby coaching for children from the age of five years to 16 years old.

Bridgend Sports RFC has a core ethos of inclusion for all and enjoyment, and there are currently over 260 children registered with the mini and junior section.

Marie Curie is the leading charity providing care to people with any terminal illness in their own homes or in one of the charity's nine hospices. In 2013/14 Marie Curie supported 40,844 people living with a terminal illness.

Marie Curie has almost 2,100 nurses, who work in the community to provide free end of life care to 94 per cent of the UK population. All services are always free to patients and their families. www.mariecurie.org.uk

For more information on Bridgend Sports RFC mini and junior section please check out our website, www.bridgendsportsclub.rfc.wales.

SP

Bridgend Bridge Club results

THE results for recent events at Bridgend Bridge Club are:

Wednesday, April 20: First, Tony Ratcliffe and Julian Pottage; second, Vida Halford and Glyn Williams; third Geoff Tinkler and John Henson. The winners on handicap were Geoff Tinkler and John Henson.

Thursday, April 21: First, Eileen Mahoney and Jeff Barnett; second, Glyn Williams and Paul Lyne; third John Henson and Stuart Davies. The winners on handicap were Eileen Mahoney and Jeff Barnett.

Friday, April 22: First Jenny Vaughan and Irene Thomas; joint second Glenda Roberts and Liam Sheridan & David Newmand and John Whateley. The winners on handicap were Eileen Mahoney and Jeff Barnett.

Regular club nights take place on Wednesday and Friday evenings at Nolton Church Hall. Play is scheduled to begin at 7pm, so it helps if players arrive at least 10 minutes early.

On Thursday afternoons at 2pm, also at Nolton Church Hall, there is a gentle bridge session. Master points are awarded, but it remains a relaxed occasion where players enjoy their bridge.

TG

Go to the The GEM for the latest stories and breaking news... www.bridgend-today.co.uk www.porthcawl-today.co.uk

Lucky 13 for Penybont under-18s in a thriller

IT was a tale of two halves at the Kymco Stadium, where Penybont under-18s ran out 7-6 winners against Union Rangers - despite being 6-1 up at half-time.

Penybont got off to the best possible start, needing just three minutes to open the scoring. Connor James got his first of the game after turning in a Morgan Ley cross, who was played in by the classy Evan Denscombe.

Four minutes later it was 2-0 after Robert Symons slotted home after being unmarked in the box.

Penybont then completed their dream start to the match after scoring their third goal in the opening 10 minutes. Midfield playmaker Oliver Waagenes picked out Robert Symons, who played in Connor James to score his second of the game.

The goals kept on coming for Penybont after Evan Denscombe played a perfectly weighted ball into the path of Morgan Ley, who toe-poked the ball into the back of the net for Penybont's fourth.

Union Rangers hit back on the 21st minute after Dan Briggs punished a Penybont defensive error, but normal service soon resumed after Ben Davies scored from close range after being on the end of a Connor James header.

Just before half-time, Oliver Waagenes played a delightful ball to Connor James, who showed good poise in front of goal to complete his hat trick and a brilliant half of football for Penybont.

Union Rangers scored the first goal of the second half through Lewis Turner, who reduced Penybont's lead to four goals.

Connor James scored his 16th goal of the season on the 68th minute with an exquisite finish to make the score 7-2.

The final 15 minutes of the match brought with it an unexpected turn of events as Union Rangers scored a further four goals to threaten a comeback.

With Penybont's lead reduced to one goal with a minute to play, there was a nervy finish as the ball was headed over the bar from a corner where even the Union Rangers goalkeeper went up to try and salvage a point.

Overall, this was a crucial victory for Penybont, who now have a second placed finish in their own hands. Both sides should be given credit for playing their part in a 13 goal thriller and it just goes to show that the game is never over until the final whistle.

TOM PROSSER

Bulls snatch win over Scorpions

BRIDGEND Blue Bulls' first team snatched a win over a youthful South Wales Scorpions under-20s side who were missing a number of key players due to injury, Wales Students training or first team call up.

The Welsh Conference champions came back from behind to win 28-24 in an exciting encounter at Pyle RFC on Sunday.

After a physical opening exchange, Ben Jones opened the scoring for Scorpions from Shane Lee's kick, after good work from Macauley Harris. Jones was unable to convert against a tricky wind.

The Bulls hit back moments later, Joe Symons and Owen Thomas combining for Jack Dryden to dive over in the corner. Thomas then put his side in front on 20 minutes. Gareth Howells converted to give the Bulls a 10-4 lead.

Jones quickly levelled things up for the Scorpions after converting Sam Buckthought's try, Jones and Rhys Gant combining to create a platform before Buckthought powered over from close range.

Jones, Gant and Lee's link-up play again created the platform for another try.

From a play-the-ball, Lee's looping pass found Lewis Hughes to score.

Both teams traded chances at the start of the second half, but the Scorpions made their pressure count through Joe Symon.

Dale Wood barged his way over to reduce the deficit, and Howells broke a number of tackles to level the score at 20-20.

Nathan Hawkins scored to give the Bulls the lead for the first time in the match with 15 minutes to go, and Thomas got his second try in a similar fashion, forcing his way over in the far left corner.

Edwards scored with three minutes to go, but the reigning Welsh champions held on for victory.

IG